



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date	Period end date
From 1 APRIL 2020	To 31 MARCH 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name THE DEBENHAM PROJECT (DEMENTIA - CARING FOR THE CARERS)

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1133501

Charity's principal address C/O 23 HIGH STREET
DEBENHAM
STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK
Postcode IP14 6QL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	L JACKSON	CHAIRMAN		
2	R W R COCKERTON	TREASURER		
3	DR P FIELDER	TRUSTEE		
4	M ROUSE	TRUSTEE		
5	MRS G SHACKLOCK	TRUSTEE		
6	R.BLACKWELL	TRUSTEE		
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	TRUST DEED
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	TRUST
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	ELECTED BY EXISTING TRUSTEES

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Relationships with related organisations: The charity is committed to providing support services, information and advice, and referral to professional organisations. Originally, the Project's model of care was based upon local volunteers delivering the major volume of support in its groups, activities and services but also being able to informally call on the professional support capability of the major charities when appropriate. During the period 2014/15 due to the financial uncertainty and cutbacks in funding by the local authorities, etc. this ceased to be viable for those charities.

In response, this charity became entirely staffed by volunteers and recruited retired volunteers with relevant career experience to help fill the skills shortfall and offer the advice, information and support that previously would have been given by current professionals. However, In 2016/17, the joint NHS/Adult Care commissioners for Suffolk introduced a county-wide service called "Dementia Together". This innovative service is based upon providing community-based voluntary dementia support services for carers and cared-for which are directly supported by a professionally staffed central hub. The charity, is a founder member and local support provider for the Debenham area, and is represented on its "Operational Management group. This model has continued to date.

The charity also created a "One to One" group of volunteer ex-professionals (GPs, Nurses, Dementia Advisors, etc.) offering front-line personal support, backed up by the Dementia Together Hub staff, to families in our catchment who might be heading towards a crisis.

The trustees remain concerned that:

The statutory (NHS and Local Government) authorities have, and continue to be, reluctant to significantly rebalance expenditure from the provision of acute care, crisis management and intervention care to local support, prevention and chronic ailment care i.e. they continue to concentrate on the management of illness (and particularly the elderly frail) by short term clinical and crisis intervention approaches. It is a source of worry that this suggests there is still a reluctance to treat community-based care as a priority.

That the underlying culture of the NHS, Local Authorities, and major charities will continue to fund/encourage a top-down care-management organisation rather than the much more flexible, person-centred and responsive bottom-up model that is central to the way The Debenham Project operates.

That local authority, NHS and other sources of funding for the day-to-day operating costs and volunteer expenses of community-led charities such as this one are very limited.

As at March 2021 there was little or no evidence of any change.

Thus far, these have not presented a significant financial risk to this charity. However the situation is a cause of significant frustration, in as much as the work of this charity, and other community-based charities, is not rewarded for the probable reductions in numbers of, and delays to hospital admissions and/or permanent commitment to residential care.

Of much greater concern is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Project's ability to meet its objectives. As from March 13th 2020, all the charity's groups, activities and face-to-face services were suspended indefinitely. These represent almost all of our frontline dementia support work. Because virtually everyone (participants, carers, cared for, and volunteers) involved in the project fall into the top priority groups by virtue of age, illness, vulnerability, frailty, etc. the Project has been unable to offer even limited support involving social interaction whilst the local incidence of infection has not been consistently negligible and/or all potential participants had been immunised. In order to provide as much support as possible within the government guidelines and restrictions the project has developed and put into practice a number of remote contact and support services (see below).

Looking forward into 2021-22, the major concern for the Project lies with how difficult it will be to rebuild its capability back to the levels of service prior to the pandemic. Financially we feel that the reserves (see below) will be more than sufficient, however the impact on both participants and volunteers has been very significant.

Section C**Objectives and activities****Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS, AND TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE GOOD HEALTH OF PERSONS SUFFERING FROM DEMENTIA, AS WELL AS THEIR CARERS AND FAMILY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT, SERVICES, RESPIRE AND GUIDANCE TO THE CARERS AND FAMILY OF SUCH PEOPLE. IT IS RECOGNISED THAT THIS OBJECT MAY BE FURTHERED BY EITHER GIVING SUPPORT OR SERVICES DIRECTLY TO THE CARERS, OR THOSE WITH DEMENTIA, OR JOINTLY IN DEBENHAM AND IN ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

The Debenham Project was proposed in April 2009, publicly launched in October of that year, and granted charitable status in January 2010.

With regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit, the charity/project developed a unique community-based approach to the support of carers of those with symptoms of dementia, and those they care for. The wide range of current services and activities (see below), created to help carers who are (or are close to) having to cope with the 24/7 care of a partner, father, mother, friend, or neighbour with dementia, have achieved viability, and medium to longer-term sustainability.

The charity was asked to address the problems that dementia presents to our community and, especially, to those who care for someone with the illness. In less than 18 months, it provided a comprehensive range of services which were, and continue to be a leading example in their breadth and focus on the individual in need of help. During 2019-20 financial year these included:

The provision of information and advice, dementia awareness, 3 individual monthly social lunch clubs, fortnightly activities and social sessions, a fortnightly carers' club and info café, a weekly chair-based fit club, linking to respite care provision, support for those involved in diagnosis, supporting a small independent self-employed professional carers network, an informal transport network for medically related appointments, a professional care and domestic help register, a one-to-one support network, integration with the countywide dementia support service, and frequent special events.

Full descriptions of these services can be found on the charity's website.

At the end of that period, in March 2020, the Covid pandemic caused almost all of the above activities to be suspended (See above). In response the Project changed its "hands on" / "face to face" approach to one of "keeping in touch" and "remote support" by phone, newsletter, e-mail and on-line communication as well as developing our website support package.

The project has long argued for the need for dementia to be considered as a physical illness and distinctly and different from a mental illness. And, as such, it should have an independent voice. In the previous reports we mentioned that the charity was working with other key organisations in creating a unique **Dementia Forum** within the national "Healthwatch" structure. This was realised in Suffolk and it is has been taking the lead as "The Voice for the Carer and Cared-For" of those who are living with the impact of dementia on their lives in our county. In the latter part of the year The Debenham Project was a key contributor in the Dementia Forum researching and successfully arguing for the creation of the **Suffolk Dementia Action Partnership**. We are also currently involved in a special group seeking to improve the way consultants, doctors and other professionals deliver a diagnosis of dementia to patients and their carers.

For a fuller description of the Project visit:

www.the-debenham-project.org.uk

[The Debenham Project - 4th Edition - May 2018](#)

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Grantmaking: The project has not made grants to individuals or organisations. The trustees have no plans to change this policy. However, the policy of providing its services free to participants, or at a nominal (subsidised) cost, has continued.

Volunteers: This is, primarily, a volunteer-based enterprise. The project has received a tremendous amount of goodwill from the community and this is reflected in a very healthy volunteer base. There are currently approximately 50 regular volunteers with about a further 40 local people who have offered their support on an occasional basis. It is the project's policy that we seek to avoid asking volunteers to do more than about ½ day per fortnight and so prevent the unsustainable situation of the "few who do it all". We are also fortunate in being able to call upon a small group of volunteers who, prior to retirement, have been senior professionals delivering frontline support in general practice, community and other nursing disciplines, social work and dementia advisory services, etc. These have successfully delivered our "One to One" support service. Because of the Covid crisis the Project has not needed to call on the vast majority of the volunteer workforce except in a very limited way e.g. task leaders keeping in touch with participants by phone, treasurer monitoring the financial position, trustees being consulted on policy and management decisions.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Policy programme related to (external) investment: The trustees continue in their concern that the statutory authorities (particularly the Suffolk County Council in collaboration with NHS Suffolk) are failing to give priority to funding community-based dementia support and crisis prevention.

1. They consider this as a major restriction in the potential for this and other local/community charities to respond to the current and future needs and essential support of the elderly frail.

2. They also continue to criticise Suffolk County Council's unwillingness to fund the ongoing expenses of volunteers and project costs as creating a negative image and a serious barrier to effective engagement with the community. In its conversations with those in other areas, it is clear that it is not a unique situation and we ask the Charities Commission to investigate.

3. However, they have remained pleased by the success of "Dementia Together" – Suffolk's dementia support service which seeks to encourage and engage with community-based projects and dementia action alliances – although this represented only a redirection of existing funding, and a limited response to the needs of carers of those with dementia and those they care for.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This accounting period covers the activities of the charity from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. This has been a period of crisis for The Debenham Project (as for all charities involved in caring for, and supporting, those who are living with the impact of dementia on their lives and well-being). Recognising the seriousness of the effect of the Covid-19 virus upon everyone involved (Carers, Cared-for, elderly participants, volunteers, etc. and responding to their needs and offering support has been the primary driving force of the charity.

Impact Statement: The nature of the impact that we believe we have made is very different from previous years, although, within the bounds of the social restrictions placed upon us, has been no less important.

Maintaining contact: Once lockdown was announced all those families and individuals we supported became isolated. Keeping in touch and offering friendly and helpful conversation – someone who cares enough to chat on a regular basis, a source of information, a contact with the community – is special.

Newsletters (Mostly weekly) - 19

Parish Magazine articles (Monthly) – 12

Telephone calls (Weekly) – 250

Information, advice and individual support: The project has continued to offer individual information, advice, assistance and signposting. The most important element of this service is “listening”. The Project’s telephone line is open 24/7.

Telephone calls and E-mails (Other) – 40

E-mails (Follow up and info) – 30

Signposting (Dementia Together & other agencies) - 20

Goodwill activity: Throughout the year the Project has been active in both helping other local agencies support those who became isolated, and in its own initiatives.

Community Christmas tea boxes (delivery) – 20 recipients

Afternoon cream tea boxes (provision and delivery) – 50 recipients

Garden Café event – 60 guests

Sadly all other events such as the “Day Out at the Seaside” and the “Debenham Project Grand Garden Party” had to be cancelled.

Other existing services: The Government social restrictions and the importance of avoiding face-to face contact with vulnerable individuals had a major impact on much of our support. The “One to One” team have been unable to offer the personal contact in the Carers Club and info Café that was a key element of maintaining a relationship. However, volunteers have tried to keep contact by telephone. Providing individual advice on Power of Attorney, Carer Allowances, etc has also been limited.

Other activities: Although the impact of the pandemic substantially reduced our involvement in various county and academic activities we continued to support the development of better coverage and quality of support for families living with dementia across Suffolk:

The Project continued to participate in The Suffolk Dementia Forum as the primary body for advocating the viewpoints of carers and cared-for living with the impact of dementia.

The Project was a major contributor to the unanimous commitment of the Suffolk Health and Well-Being Board members to a Suffolk-wide Partnership to actively work towards, not only a Dementia Friendly Suffolk, but also to be proactive in the provision

of support services for those living with the impact of dementia on their lives.

Recognition: Since its inception the Project has collaborated with a significant number of the professional and academic institutions with particular interest in community-based dementia support. Currently we are involved in:

Warwick University – “Sustainable Community-based Dementia Support”.

Cardiff University - Specialist contribution to the 6th edition of “Community Work”, one of the long-time recognised textbooks on the subject.

Research: The Debenham Project has always been keen to explore the field of community-based support for, not only those who are living with the impact of dementia on their lives and well-being, but also for all those in our community who may be living with the chronic illnesses and frailties that are synonymous with an increasingly ageing population. The following project was begun immediately prior to the lockdown at the beginning of March 2020:

University of Suffolk - “Evaluating the Provision, Availability, Cost, and Quality of Health and Social Care for the Elderly Frail in a Rural Community”.

This is a unique collaboration focusing on the overall well-being of elderly persons in a typical rural setting i.e. Debenham and the surrounding area. Unfortunately the epidemic has significantly delayed its progress by an estimated 9 - 12 months.

1. Funding: Although donations from community funding occasions were severely curtailed, the Garden Café event together with other individual donations held up considerably better than expected. **However, The Trustees ask the Charity Commission to consider the impact of significantly reduced Government/Local Authority/NHS funding, relative to the increasing numbers of elderly frail persons, on communities, charities and voluntary care organisations.**

Outreach: None due to Covid.

Future Developments:

Re-opening of groups and face-to-face services. Unlikely before July/August 2021.

Completion of University of Suffolk research project.

Initiation of Suffolk Dementia Partnership.

Overall: Broadly, as expected, the year proved to be very difficult for those individuals and families that the Project seeks to help. We managed to adapt the Project’s offerings as best as possible but there has been no question that greatly increased isolation due the suspension of groups and face-to-face contact placed a sever toll on family carers and their loved ones. The Government decision to prevent visiting in care homes was especially distressing and damaging to the health and well-being of those living with dementia.

--

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The project entered the year in a sound financial position due to the trustees' policy of maintaining reserves sufficient to the cover core costs for a period of 2 years. However, it was anticipated that the pandemic would massively reduce the income of all charities and so it was expected that our reserves would be significantly depleted in the 2020-21 financial year.

Surprisingly and very encouragingly, income was only marginally reduced from £9.4K to £8.9K which is roughly the figure we hope for annually as being sufficient to secure financial sustainability. This was due to some very generous individual donations which compensated for reductions in contributions from Fit Club, travel donations and those made "in memoria". Combined with savings in expenses due to the suspension of our services (Carers Club and Info Café, Fit Club, and travel support), the positive balance between Income and costs was £5.3K which when added to the current reserves means that the overall financial assets of the Project at the end of the period were £27.7K. However, this has to be set against the £10K set aside for the University of Suffolk research project which is now expected to be completed towards the end of 2021-22 and within budget. Thus, going into the 2021-22 financial year, the Project's uncommitted reserves will be roughly equal to twice the historical average annual cost of running and managing its activities.

Despite the extreme uncertainty and severe financial difficulties that most charities faced, The Debenham Project remains remarkably financially sound. It has been able to, not only adapt and develop the nature of its support, but also maintain its commitment to the community by continuing to pay the rent on its Dove Cottage accommodation and also to pay our Fit Club instructors when we were unable to use their services.

As Chair of the Project, I firmly believe that our successful financial results are primarily due to the amazing support that we receive from the community and volunteers.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Funding: The charity has achieved a sound funding position based upon the distinction between "core funding", funding for "special projects", and "private donations".

To run and continue to develop the main services of the project has cost, averaged over the lifetime of the project, between £8,500 and £10,000 pa. The trustees believe this to be a reasonable budget figure which enables the project to both sustain its existing voluntary support services and activities, and also to develop the project for the medium and longer-term. In the initial years, funding was granted from local (district) authority sources (with a total grant of approximately £26,500 over 3 years). Since the inception of the project we have been very fortunate to receive significant funding from recognised charitable foundations eg AXA insurance, Sports Relief, Comic Relief, Waitrose, the Co-op, and Yorkshire B/S. More recently the majority of our funds have come through private donations and local community fundraising events. However, the Trustees continue to be concerned, in the general sense,

that Central and Local Government remain **exceptionally reluctant to provide longer-term core funding to community projects** such as this one, despite the fact that such projects are directly supporting the mission of adult care services and enabling them to reduce their costs of service provision. This reluctance also includes setting constraints on the funds endowed for dementia support and the elderly frail which are administered by Suffolk Community Foundation and aimed at encouraging voluntary health and care projects.

To date, the project has been very fortunate that it hasn't needed to set a high priority on fundraising. It has continued to receive a significant amount of unsolicited funds from individuals and local organisations in recognition of the value to the local community of the work of the project, and donations made in memoriam. This has enabled us to not only resource our group and individual support activities and services, but also to provide funding for special events throughout the year.

Regarding the long-term financial sustainability of the charity, the trustees remain concerned that, without the local authorities and the CCGs becoming committed to the long-term support of voluntary community-based dementia support organisations, the on-going sustainability may be at risk. The likelihood is that the current and future potential funding shortfall in the statutory health and social care sector will ultimately place demands upon family carers and the voluntary sector that are unsustainable. **This is anticipated by the trustees as the Project needing to consider employing professional staff in order to mitigate the resulting reduction in statutory provision of care - with a resulting impact on its finances.**

The trustees continue to be agreed in the policy of maintaining the charity's reserves at a level of between 1 and 2 years annual expenditure.

Section F

Other optional information

Additional information is available on the project's website at www.the-debenham-project.org.uk.

Section G

Declaration

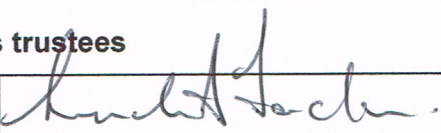
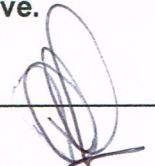
The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

	
LYNDAL ASUBROOKE JACKSON	RAYNOR WILLIAM RHYSS COCKBURN
CHAIR	SECRETARY

Date

10th Jan 2022



THE DEBENHAM PROJECT		1133501		CC16a
Annual Accounts				
For the period from	01-Apr-20	To	31-Mar-21	

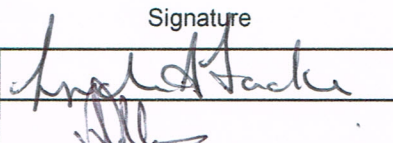
Section A Statement of Financial Activity

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations with gift aid	3,038	-	-	3,038	2,495
Other Donations	4,551	-	-	4,551	888
Gift aid received and recoverable from hmrc	759	-	-	759	624
Fit Club Contributions	25	-	-	25	820
Donations made in Memoriam (ex with gift aid)	554	-	-	554	1,728
Travel Donations	-	-	-	-	1,918
Sale of Merchandise	-	-	-	-	220
Sue Ryder Donation (Please tell me project)	-	-	-	-	-
The Scholars' tale ticket sales	-	-	-	-	615
East of England COOP	-	-	-	-	33
Collection Boxes	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	11	-	-	11	43
Discord Donation	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	8,938	-	-	8,938	9,384
A2 Asset and investment sales.					
(see table)	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,938	-	-	8,938	9,384
A3 Payments					
Printing and Stationery	35	-	-	35	-
Cameo Club	-	-	-	-	375
Postage	20	-	-	20	44
Project Management	329	-	-	329	323
Info Cafe Carers Club	-	-	-	-	1,943
Fitness Club	120	-	-	120	1,487
Refreshments	-	-	-	-	321
Gift aid adjustment re prior years	-275	-	-	-275	-
Insurances	508	-	-	508	508
Other	72	-	-	72	241
Telephone Line	891	-	-	891	816
Please tell me project	21	-	-	21	131
Volunteer Travel Costs	21	-	-	21	1,729
Rent Dove Cottage	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,200
Computer equipment and software	250	-	-	250	77
Evaluating Health & Social Care Project	460	-	-	460	748
Sub total	3,652	-	-	3,652	9,943
A4 Asset and investment purchases,					
(see table)	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,652	-	-	3,652	9,943
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,286	-	-	5,286	-559
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Funds last year end	20,089	2,380	-	22,469	23,028
Funds this year end	25,375	2,380	-	27,755	22,469

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	NATWEST DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	19,111	2,380	21,491	21,482
	NATWEST CURRENT ACCOUNT	6,670	-	6,670	3,316
	CASH IN HAND	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
	funds	25,781	2,380	28,161	24,798
B2 Other monetary assets		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
	Details				
	EAST OF ENGLAND COOP BALANCE	424	-	424	424
	GIFT AID RECOVERABLE	759	-	759	-
	OUTSTANDING LODGEMENTS	-	-	-	1,619
B3 Liabilities		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
	Total monetary assets	1,183	-	1,183	2,043
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
	Details				
B3 Liabilities	UNPRESENTED CHEQUES	1,589	-	1,589	4,372
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
	Total liabilities	1,589	-	1,589	4,372
Funds at year end		25,375	2,380	27,755	22,469

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Lynden Jackson	10/01/22
	Roger Cockerton	10/01/22

Notes to the financial statements

Note 1 Accounting policy

1. These accounts have been prepared on a different basis from the statements prepared for the year ending 31 March 2015 because SORP 5 was withdrawn and replaced with SORP 2015 FRS 102. The new SORP is considerably more complex and it was considered by the Trustees that it would not be cost effective to produce such statements for a Charity with a total income below the Charity Commission filing threshold. It was decided to produce accounts using the receipts and payments option and exempt from most of the new SORP disclosure requirements. However, under SORP 1 the Trustees elected to adopt the accruals basis of accounting for showing gift aid recoverable as a debtor.

Note 2 Details of certain items of expenditure

2.1 Trustee expenses

	This year	Last year
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	1	1
Nature of the expenses	Expenses associated with running the Trust	Expenses associated with running the Trust
Total amount paid	£1,275.01	£3,378.61

2.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner or auditor. If nothing was paid please enter NONE in the appropriate box(es).

Independent examiner’s or auditors' fees for reporting
Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy,

This year £	Last year £
-	-
-	-