



Hi everyone,

### **Congratulations, Joy, but also Sadness**

Sometimes the month gone by was a mixture of emotions. June - one of our oldest members of the project has been honoured, our annual Garden Party always welcomes all our current and past members to a very special afternoon celebration, however, sadly, we have lost one of oldest and loveliest from our family.

But first, I want to congratulate Russell Ling on being awarded the British Empire Medal for his longstanding services to the Otley community. Russell came to the Debenham Project at the very beginning when he was caring for his wife Rita and they were members of our very first Lunch Club organised by Joy Walton in October 2009 and also our Carers Club. Sadly, Rita passed away in the autumn of 2012. But, in keeping with our “When you become a member of our Debenham Project family you will always belong to it”, Russell has continued to enjoy and help with their monthly visits, events and lunches. Congratulations Russell, you so deserve it.

As I pen this newsletter, we are looking forward to our annual Garden Party, so generously hosted by Mike and Lyn Rouse, when we welcome all our Debenham Project family to our Annual Garden Party. It has always been a very special occasion for us all – a fitting celebration for all the Project has achieved, a heartfelt thank you for all that everyone has done to make it possible, and a massive appreciation to our community for all its support without which the Debenham Project would not exist.

Sadly, Carole Wood has passed away after a long illness. Again, one who came to us at the very beginning looking for support when she was struggling to care for her husband Brian – such a lovely couple. They became a joy to know in Carers Club, and Lunch Club. And following Brian’s death around this time in 2014, Carole became a wonderful volunteer in Fit Club and Carers club. We miss her so much and ask you to celebrate what she has meant to us all on the 10<sup>th</sup> July at 12.00 at St. Mary’s.

Very best wishes, Lynden

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