



Hello everyone,

Wow! What a day! As I mentioned last time The Debenham Project was honoured by an invitation to “The Queen’s Jubilee Garden Party” at Sandringham. It was truly a wonderful occasion and the famous cucumber sandwiches were every bit as good as expected. You need a special garden to be able to entertain 4,000 guests and on June 12<sup>th</sup> it was just magnificent in such glorious sunshine. The Queen and Prince Andrew spent over an hour just walking amongst the guests and chatting to them in a completely relaxed atmosphere. A truly memorable afternoon.

I have often mentioned how grateful we are for all those people in the community (and also some who are from outside our area) who quietly make donations towards our work. Last month was no exception and I would particularly like to thank the family of Kay Holifield for their very kind gift made in her memory. For her daughter, Sue and her family, getting the best professional care was so important in helping Kay stay in her own home for as long as possible. We were delighted when she asked us to put the money towards implementing our ideas for a local carers cooperative, and proud to be launching the first stage of the project this month. We think, working with the very generous help of Christies Care and Sue Ryder that it will take between 6 and 12 months to get it going. If we can do it, we believe that it will prove to be an innovative approach towards much improved availability of all forms of care in the home to the highest quality standards.

I would also like to mention The Ipswich Orwell Rotary Club and their past president, Helen Brookson. Helen and the club, not only nominated the project as one of Ipswich Waitrose’s monthly community charities but also made us one of their nominated charities for the year. As a result we have been presented with a cheque for £300 from the Rotary and another cheque for £216 from Waitrose – Thank you, indeed.

It seems that July is going to be a month of beginnings, as we shall also be launching a unique 12 month research project. As ordinary people we accept that the earlier we can treat a serious illness such as cancer, the better the outcome will be. – “A stitch in time saves nine”. However, when it comes to dementia this does not seem to be quite the case - quite often it takes a major crisis before any help is looked for, and, by then it tends to be more a matter of “making the best of the situation” than aiming for the best quality of life. So, we are embarking on this project to find out how we can encourage family carers to seek help earlier.

If you would like to know more about The Debenham Project, please think about visiting our website [www.the-debenham-project.org.uk](http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk) where you can access all our newsletters, and much more. If you are a bit unsure how to contact us on the web please call in at **The Library Resource Centre**, Cross Green, Debenham and ask Melanie or one of her staff to help you. A

range of leaflets are available at the **Post Office** and don't hesitate to call the **Project Phone Line** 01728 862003.

With my best wishes,

Lynden