



Hello everyone,

Glad News, Sad News and Thank You

I guessed that it is a fact that The Debenham Project reflects what a village is “all about” when I found that what I wanted/needed to say this month touches upon what a passer-by might overhear in conversations in our shops and high street.

Starting with the good news, our district councilor, Kathie Guthrie, has awarded us a grant of £550 from her localities budget – very welcome in these times of local authority cutbacks. Also Steve Robbins is starting a Reminiscence Group – everyone enjoys a good old natter about the old days and there is something special about bringing back memories – look out for more information elsewhere in this edition.

Sadly, however, two great friends of the project died last month. Many of you will have known Gwyn Power who was one of our first volunteers and who helped with Carers Club, Coopersfield Lunch Club, transport, and other activities. Tim Mason didn't live in our area but he made a big contribution in leading a major research study involving getting to know very many of the carers, cared-for, and volunteers in the project. His work with his colleague, Gordon Slack, was nationally recognised for its unique insight into the real experiences and perceptions of those who are living with dementia. Both will be greatly missed.

And now to say thank you. Firstly to the Forge Church for their very generous donation of £300 - they have always been wonderful in their support for the project. Next, many thanks to all the shops and businesses for looking after our collection boxes for another year – their customers donated nearly £200. Also, the East of England Coop has very kindly given the project a whole year's supply of tea – and that's a lot of tea bags!! I would also like to add our grateful thanks to Peter and Mary Bloom on their retirement from the Post Office – since the beginning of the project they have let us advertise and display all our information leaflets (this facility will move to the new library in due course) alongside the counter, and countless times have happily accepted all our small change and coins from our collections and other contributions. We shall miss them and wish them good luck for the future. Lastly, a big big thank you to the High School for putting on their community lunch for, I believe, 50+ elderly residents, many of whom are participants in The Debenham Project – It was so much appreciated by everyone that I have talked to about it.

Finally, watch out for the arrival of New-Age Kurling in Debenham at the Community Centre – enjoy great fun with your friends combined with gentle exercise.

Best wishes, Lynden

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