



Hello everyone,

Happy New Year

Welcome to 2018 – I hope that it will be a happy and a special year for you.

By now all the Christmas and New Year festivities will be almost over although the Christmas tree still has a few days more to sparkle. As a child in the North East on Twelfth Night we would strip off the decorations, my father would stand it in the garden, and then he would set a fire around its base. It would catch light and a great whoosh of flames and sparks flew high into the night sky. We were told that this was to spread the Spirit of Christmas throughout the world in the New Year. In no time it was burnt to a cinder leaving the brightness of the image and its meaning firmly imprinted in our memories. -Kindness, laughter, friendship, caring and giving are not “just for Christmas”.

Each month I usually include a footnote expressing our gratitude for your donations in support of what we do. This month I would like to say a little more by way of saying thank you. Sometimes we can think of donating simply as “signing a cheque” or “dropping our change in a collecting box”, but it is much more than that. It is personal. Donations come in many forms and ways. These are just those that I received in the few days before Christmas. One couple made us one of the local charities they have donated to this Christmas, instead of sending Christmas Cards. Another, on receiving a “thank you” gift of bacon for sponsoring the milk machine in our local butchers, very kindly donated it to the project for use by our lunch clubs. One of our volunteers turned up on the doorstep with two large boxes of brand new gifts, fancy goods, and other items – a donation from his previous retail firm – for us to sell in a pop-up shop, or at market stall events. Then I received a surprise, and very welcome present of £150 from the “Knit and Natter” group who meet at Coopersfield, only to be followed by an envelope containing £25 in cash slipped quietly through our letterbox. And finally, on my list of kindnesses and support, I was asked by Vanilla Bakery to “empty our collection box for Christmas” – a bonus of almost £50 in donations from their customers. I cannot thank everyone enough – it is their generosity and that of our community throughout the year that enables The Debenham Project to continue to offer support to all those in our village and surrounding area who are living with the impact of dementia on their lives.

Finally, but not least, thank you so very much to everyone – volunteers, donors, carers, cared-for, and all other contributors to the project - for all you have done this past year and looking forward to a Caring New Year.

With best wishes, Lynden

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