



Hello everyone,

This month I would like to highlight how important relationships with other local organisations can be. In successfully setting up and running a charity such as ours, many things have to “fall into place”, and one of most critical requirements is “somewhere to call home”. I don’t mean our “Head Office” which is the dining room in Bleak House, but the place where we can get on and provide the help that is so welcomed by those families struggling to cope with the impact of dementia on their lives, and many others who can benefit from our services and activities. For this we are eternally grateful to St. Mary’s Church. As everyone who participates in any of the various activities that make up The Debenham Project will know, we are very fortunate to be able to enjoy the use of Dove Cottage as our main venue. It is owned by St. Mary’s, and meets our needs perfectly. It is in the centre of the village, it has parking for those who find walking even short distances difficult, it has simple but excellent kitchen facilities, but especially it has, for me, the “Goldilocks” seal of approval - it is neither too big nor too small – it is just right! In fact it is very suitable for any community group with between around 10 – 30 participants, and can comfortably cope with more on occasions.

I well remember, many years ago, the vision of Rev. Henry Pearson and the PCC to purchase the small Sexton’s Cottage and to extend and develop it into the current building alongside the church, but I didn’t realise how useful it could become as a village hub. Since then it has served not only the Church, but also the wider community, well. And, keeping up to date, working with its users, it has continued to develop its facilities – a quiet/consultation room, a disabled toilet, improved disability access, a totally refurbished kitchen, and WiFi. Now, a program for new flooring, heating, window blinds, and decoration is under way. These are all improvements that continue to make Dove Cottage one of the most attractive small venues for us (and for other groups) in Debenham.

The Debenham Project has been a substantial user – activities, meetings, groups, training, etc. - for the past 10 years thanks to the generosity of the Church in initially letting us use it free of charge and, once the project had become established, giving us a most welcome discount on the rental. Without Dove Cottage The Debenham Project would struggle. Thank you indeed St Mary’s.

Finally, I am so very grateful for the generous donations made by the family and friends of Colin Denny in his memory. And thank you for all your donations and support throughout the year. Please remember that we can receive donations via the Co-op (just ask for your dividend to be given to **609313**) and on-line using the button on the home page of our website (below). Also don’t forget, we have wheelchairs for loan if you need one for a few days.

With all my best wishes

Lynden

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