



Hello everyone,

It seems to have been a very long time since we have been able to enjoy getting together in any way other than an occasional socially distanced chat in the High Street. So you can imagine my pleasure when Sarah and Nicola suggested that, now the guidelines have been relaxed as far as people meeting outdoors, they would like to put on “Cream Teas at Chesters” in Sarah’s lovely garden as a social fundraising event for The Debenham Project. Within a couple of days they had it organised and planned, posters on the way, raffle prizes and support from all the local businesses, and all within the guidelines. How much money it would raise was not really important, this was something they wanted to do to lift the spirits of those who hadn’t had the chance to “dress up” for something special. The only thing that they couldn’t count on was the weather, but it seems even that responded to their enthusiasm. It turned out to be a very lovely day. In fact it was three lovely sessions late morning, lunchtime and afternoon. It was lovely for Sue and I to be able to chat with so many of those supporting and supported by the Project – friends that we have only been able to talk to by phone and e-mail - it would have been special to sit beside them and hug them but, for the time being, we must all keep our distance.

Altogether Sarah, Nicola and the “Team”, not only provided cheese scones and cream teas for about 75 guests but also delivered the same to all the businesses who had supported the event. I know that the money was not the main aim but I can’t fail to say “Wow” – It totalled more than £1300 – purely in donations and the raffle – for once, I was speechless. Thank you so much to everyone – to Sarah, Nicola, Sheila, and David (in his “modern man” suit of pastel blue pinny and matching trousers), to all our Debenham businesses, to those who couldn’t be there but made donations, and especially everyone who came and enjoyed a very special day.

And while I am on the subject of the kindness of so many in helping the Project, I am sure you have noticed a new business in the High Street next door to Lucy’s flower shop. Something which, over the last few years, I have heard quite a few people saying is needed in Debenham – A charity shop dedicated to supporting local charities and causes close to the hearts of those in our community. Christine has recently opened “New our You” and it is doing well. Please support her. The Debenham Project was delighted to be one of the first recipients of her generous support – Thank you so very much, Christine. Also, thank you to Margaret and Paul for their very kind donation.

We have had lots of songs asked for “By Special Request” and our amazing “Music Man”, Stephen McKie, is now setting out to record them especially for you. We are going to put each request on a CD and “deliver it to your door”. I hope you enjoy playing it and treasure it. Meanwhile, it is not too late for those of you that would like to have your favourite memory recorded as part of the album – Just e-mail me, phone me or drop a note through my door. And, by the by, you can also join in with his “Singalong” concert by visiting our On-Line Resources page at [www.the-debenham-project.org.uk](http://www.the-debenham-project.org.uk).

With all my best wishes,

Lynden

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