



One year closes and another opens. From some fairly casual remarks in a meeting last February **The Debenham Project** has taken wings and is flying. It seems incredible that from such an insignificant start we have managed to capture the imagination of Suffolk. Don't think that this is just me trying to encourage you - I get feedback from all over that "Debenham is trying to do something for CARERS", that "it is UNIQUE" and that "it has an IDEA" which might just change the way we care for those who may have the symptoms of dementia and, in the longer term, for all who are frail and need the community's support. I know that we can do it, but to do so we will need every drop of your support. At the beginning of a new year what better pledge can we make but to "care for those who care"?

The cold spell has had its effect on the project with two group meetings having to be postponed due to the icy roads and pavements - but this is only a very minor delay and we are looking forward to a new Food 'n' Friends lunch club getting started, as well as the Carers' Club and Info Café.

We have a lot of things beginning therefore we are going to be raising the awareness of the project with carers. So if you can think of anyone who may benefit please tell them about the project and ask them to get in touch.

The goodwill of everyone continues and we were delighted to receive a donation of £50 from Ruth Boulton as a result of her sales of 2nd hand books for charity. We also received £263 from Kate Scott as a result of The Debenham Best Bits group's carol singing around the village and the Debenham Christmas Evening's entertainment in the Red Lion. Many, many thanks.

Finally, I am very pleased to say that The Debenham Project has now been given full charitable status. It has been quite a lot of work but now means we can claim the tax back on donations made under Gift Aid. It also "opens a lot of doors".

Continued thanks to all in Debenham, the surrounding villages, and the local authorities for all their support.

If you would like to know more please see our display in the Post Office; or ring 01728 862003; or call in at the Library Resource Centre or visit www.the-debenham-project.org.uk

Lynden