



Newsletter - October 2009

The Debenham Project was well and truly launched on the 7th October at the Community Centre. We had an audience of over 130. Dr. Paddy Fielder was joined by leading members of the Local Authorities, the NHS and the charities to describe the project and how it will help carers and those that they care for. The goodwill and support from all was wonderful with many generous offers of help from both potential volunteers and professionals. The project was repeatedly described as a model for the rest of rural Suffolk.

The donations for tea & coffee amounted to £27.95 and the Alzheimer's Society were delighted to receive this.

Since its inception only a few months ago, The Debenham Project has put into practice the initial desire "to lets get on and do something". Today those services, which were "only ideas", have come into existence.

Confidential Telephone Support Line

Activities and Social Support Sessions

Food 'n' Friends Luncheon Clubs

Information and Advice Centre

Debenham Project Website

Medication and Pharmacy 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. Much more is beginning to be planned.

Our next objectives are to consolidate and develop our initial services, and to explore a number of ideas for new services. Some services, for example Food 'n' Friends lunches, may take a little longer to fully develop because our partners have to organise a number of checks or, like the telephone support line, they involve some initial training but we hope to steadily increase the facilities over the next few months. In the next couple of weeks, we shall be reviewing all the generous offers of help that you and everyone else have made and trying to match volunteers interests to task areas.

The success of the project thus far is all down to the support that everyone has given. From an initial 20 people who said they would help back at the end of April, we now have had practical support and offers of help from over 60.

Now that we are up and running we will need to encourage carers to take up the various services. Its going to be quite difficult balancing a steady scaling up of the project with not over-developing the numbers of participants. We believe that many will be recommended to us through the surgery and the professional support workers. Others you may know of, or, they may contact you directly. We are setting up a simple referral system and you can help by suggesting that anyone who is interested, contact us by one or other of the above approaches.

We have had some very impressive statements of support from the very top of Suffolk County Council:

I am very pleased to lend my support to the Debenham Dementia Project. Eddy Alcock has told me about all the hard work undertaken by the community to get it prepared.

Debenham is so wise to have recognised the increasing challenge of the growing number of people suffering from dementia and also the considerable stress and problems this causes for their families and friends. I have selected The Alzheimer's Society(Suffolk) to be my Chairman's Charity for the year. This means that I can help raise the profile of dementia as well as raise some money for them.

I am very sorry not to be able to be with you for the launch but send my congratulations to those who have developed the project and my best wishes for the future.

Joanna Spicer (Chair of Suffolk County Council)

From: Heather Keeble

Sent: 12 October 2009 16:06

To: Eddy Alcock

Subject: The Debenham Project

Hi Eddy,

What a surprise an e-mail from me. I hope you are keeping well and still enjoying your new role - I haven't seen you in Endeavour House lately.

I thought I would just let you know, I went to a talk at lunchtime today given by **Jeremy** and **Andrea** and I felt so proud to come from Debenham. They were talking about The Debenham Project and how well Debenham had done to get something like that up and running.

Talk to you soon.

Heather

Heather Keeble

Portfolio Support

Environment and Transport

The talk was given by **Jeremy** Pembroke, Leader of the Council and **Andrea** Hill, Chief Executive. It was a pep talk for staff to alert them to "The New Strategic Direction" and to promote The Debenham Project as an example of our way forward.

And these statements are being backed by a serious intent to provide both financial and professional support. I have every hope that sufficient funding for our first full year of operation will be secured within the next few weeks.

With many thanks and best wishes,

on behalf of The Debenham Project,

Lynden Jackson.