



Hello everyone,

The Debenham project is approaching its 4th birthday. Since the Debenham Project was launched in October 2009, it has grown to become a unique example of what a community can do to help those who care for a loved one with dementia. It has now been acknowledged as one of the 1st “dementia-friendly communities” in the UK, and is authorised by the “Prime Minister’s Challenge Team” to use the logo that you see above. The project is second to none throughout the rural communities of the UK in the support it offers. The range of services currently include emergency and short-term care and support cover for family carers, a fitness club, confidential telephone helpline, information and advice, lunch clubs, and a carers club, as well as raising awareness and understanding of the illness within the local area.

The Minister for Care, Norman Lamb, recently described it as “an inspiration for us all to follow” and said he would like to hear more about our ideas and plans for the future. It just goes to show that small communities can make a difference.

Last month I mentioned the passing of Nic Cass. We received a card from his family – “We would like to say a big thank you to everyone at the Debenham Project and also the Lunch Club for coming to Dad’s funeral and supporting us on this sad day. Dad would have loved to see everyone there. Best wishes for the Project. Regards, Kath, Pat and Jill.” Nic was a part of our family and we miss him.

Finally I want to express our gratitude to AXA Insurance for their grant of £630 towards our volunteers’ travel expenses. Everyone generously gives up their time in support of our various activities and services and they should not have to also reach into their own purses and pockets to cover things like mileage, train journeys, and other expenses. So with this grant we have set up a maintained fund to ensure that they never have to do so.

Also, don’t forget that with summer outings coming on we have a wheelchair for loan.

With best wishes,

Lynden

For more information on The Debenham project please contact the **Project Phone Line:** 01728 862003 or visit our **Website:** www.the-debenham-project.org.uk