

Debenham Village Hall & Playing Field Trust 46th Annual General Meeting - 17th May, 2011

Chairman's Report For Year End February 2011

The Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 20 February 2003. It is governed by a memorandum of articles of association. The company was established, following a review of legal structure, to take over the activities of the unincorporated charity, Debenham Village Hall & Playing Field Trust (registered charity number 304742) established under a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners under seal dated 4 July 1988. The charity owns and runs the Debenham Leisure and Community Centre for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Debenham, Suffolk and neighbourhood.

The charity's objective is the provision and maintenance of a village hall, recreation ground and other recreational facilities for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Debenham and its neighbourhood without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

Welcome to our 46th AGM and thank you for taking the time to attend.

March 2010 to February 2011

This last financial year has been an exciting and rewarding year!

Major Events this year have gone from strength to strength. The Boxing Night, Auction of Promises, Country & Western Festival, Debenham Arts Festival, Summer Activities, Sportsman's Dinner, Fireworks Night and Christmas Dinner were all supported by more people than ever before.

The Community Centre is at the heart of our Community and we have hosted 13 Birthday Party's, 4 Charity Events, 4 Concerts, 4 Dinners Dances, 7 Disco Dances, 5 Fashion/Flower Shows, 10 Meetings/Conferences, 3 School Productions, 2 Theatre Productions, 4 Wakes and 4 Weddings - an average of more than one event per week. These coupled with the major events and the regular activities mean that the Community Centre is thriving and is heavily booked most weekday evenings and weekends.

The lifeblood of the Centre continues to be the regular Users of the Centre. These are the Organisations, Clubs and Individuals who join in the classes and sports, who use the Gym and the other facilities and who meet here regularly. These Groups include Aerobics, Art Club, Ballroom Dancing, Bridge Club, Circuit Training, Dance Classes, Deben Vale Badminton, Debenham Badminton Club, Debenham Bowls Club, Debenham Bridge Club, Debenham Family and Veteran Hockey, Debenham LC Football Club, Debenham Players, Debenham Squash Club, Debenham Youth Football Club, The Forge Community Church, Jo Hughes Badminton, Judo, Karate, Kick Boxing, Pilates, Scottish Country Dancing and Yoga. We also offer regular coaching sessions for children in Badminton, Ballet, Basketball, Dance, Football, Hockey, Judo, Karate, Kick-Boxing, Netball, Racketball, Squash and Tennis.

We have set up Working Parties each of which has a specialist remit and reports to a named Trustee to mastermind a particular Project. Some of these Projects will have an end date whilst others are part of our ongoing long term plan.

- **HSE & First Aid** - Spearheaded by Steve Spurling and reports to Suzie
- **Marketing and Advertising** - Chaired by Mick Morley and reports to Dennis
- **Green Energy** - Spearheaded by Richard Blackwell and reports to Suzie
- **Youth Shelter & Project D Skatepark** - Chaired by Steve Spurling and reports to the Board

Debenham Sports & Leisure, Gracechurch Street, Debenham, Suffolk IP14 6BL

Tel: 01728 861101, Fax: 01728 861675, Email: info@debenhamleisurecentre.co.uk, Web: www.debenhamleisurecentre.co.uk
Company No: 4672490 (DVH&PFT), Company No: 02645737 (Debenham Community Centre Ltd), Charity No: 1099705 (DVH&PFT)

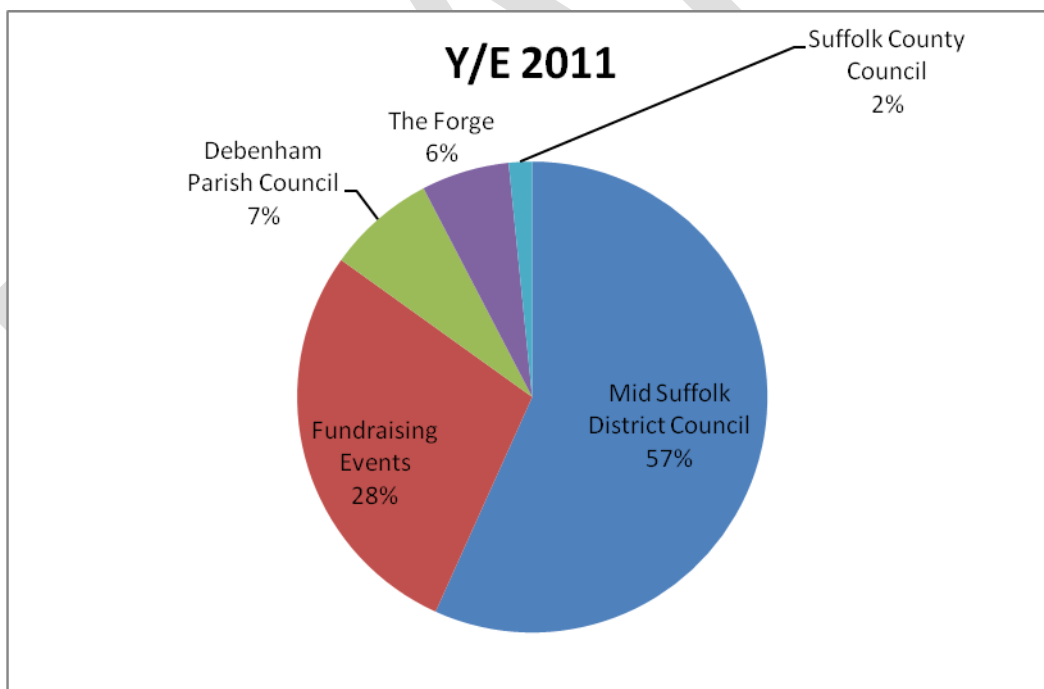
Debenham Sports & Leisure

- **Community Centre Kitchen** - under discussion
- **Business Plan** - under discussion
- **Finance & Grants** - Volunteers sought

The Management of the Centre has been strengthened over the last year, with the addition of Steve Spurling (June) and Sue Thurlow (March). We have also restructured following the departure of Mel Aldis (November). We have increased our staffing levels and although this has added to the employment costs it has enabled us to make savings in other areas (e.g. maintenance), so that the overall cost of running the centre has remained the same.

We are extremely heartened by the end of year accounts, which build on last years greatly improved financial situation. We have worked with Greene King and our bankers, NatWest, to restructure our debt and overdraft facilities into longer term loans. As a result of this and other changes made over the last year we have achieved an operating surplus of £16,684 - this is the best result in the last 10 years and as a result of this we have been able to reduce our current liabilities by about £66,000. The Centre's finances are now on a better footing than they have been for several years. The Auditors Report will go into this in more detail. We would like to record our thanks to **Annie Wright (Greene King)** and **David Read (NatWest)** for their help and support.

With an enterprise like this, we are blessed with the people who help and support us; namely grants from **Suffolk County Council (SCC)** and **Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC)**; donations from **Debenham Parish Council** and **The Forge Community Church** and fund-raising events organised by **The Friends**. The voluntary work that is carried out by **The Friends** and **The Forge** really is beyond all reasonable expectations and over the last year has been very welcome and allowed us to make a real impact upon our financial position. Grants, donations and fund-raising during this period totalled £46,737 as follows:



We are also helped and mentored by various members of our community and Chris Fry and Anselm Gurney from **MSDC**. Thanks are due to the team; my fellow Directors - Martin, George and Dennis and also to Mick Morley all of whom continue to provide much needed advice and support; and to Steve and Sue and all staff who regularly put in a lot of voluntary hours to make our vision a reality. This really is a team effort.

Plans for March 2011 onwards

This year we are pleased to announce that some of the Uniformed Groups (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) have returned to Debenham and now meet in the Community Centre every week.

Both **SCC** and **Debenham Parish Council** kindly made donations towards the Royal Wedding Community Party, which saw about 400 people in the Community Centre watch the event live on the big screen. The tables were all dressed in their best as were the people - as befits a wedding! The food that everyone brought looked beautiful, and I can vouch for the taste! There was a bouncy castle, games and face painting for the children and an impromptu game of football afterwards for those who hadn't eaten too much. Thank you very much to **Eddy Alcock** and **Lynne Cockerton** for their donations and also to all the **Staff** who volunteered and gave up their Bank Holiday to look after everyone.

During this year we will hold quarterly financial summary meetings to allow us to share headline financial details with our major funders. Three of these meetings will take place in August, November and February (the fourth meeting being the AGM in May). These three meetings will be chaired by Mike Crawshaw, which will allow me to participate fully in the discussion. I am happy to say that MSDC, Greene King, NatWest and The Forge have all confirmed they will attend and I will be publishing the dates and agenda during the next month.

MSDC has, this month, given us a grant of £25,000. This is the last year of a three year grant for which we are extremely grateful and our thanks go to **Chris Fry** and **Tom Barker** and their colleagues at **MSDC** for this much needed support. Thanks are also due to District Councillor **Kathie Guthrie** for her support and goodwill and we wish her all the best after her recent re-election.

Plans are afoot to spruce up the Community Centre Kitchen. In order to encourage more weddings and conference-type events, we need to replace some of the equipment in the kitchen and re-configure the space. This will mean applying for grants, fund raising and a certain amount of re-building. We have a team of people who have already indicated their interest and plans have been drawn up. If you would like to get involved with this project, please let us know. All fund-raising events this year will contribute towards this project.

Last year, thanks to **The Forge**, blackout capability was installed in the Community Centre. This means that we can hold more Meeting and Conference type events in the main hall. Our aim this year is to provide the same blackout capability in the Side Lounge to cater for smaller meetings and conferences and to replace the existing damaged windows with something more energy efficient. We are looking for grant funding to facilitate this.

We are always looking for volunteers and if you would like to help us support our village asset, then contact details can be found on our website or you can speak to any member of the team.

I understand past concerns but hope that the community is re-assured that the Trust which manages **your** Community Centre, Leisure Centre and Playing Fields **IS** in safe hands.

Thank you, all of you.

Suzie Morley
Chairman, DVH&PFT