Greetings from Gloria

Dear Members,

After a long cold winter, despite the continuing cold weather I truly hope that spring is just round the corner. I am encouraged by the snowdrops, aconites and crocuses that are emerging in my garden and the ever increasing daylight hours however like many members I just wish it would get a little warmer.

I appreciate how lonely housebound elderly people must be feeling and the importance of Good Neighbour Schemes that are being implemented by our group together with other partnership agencies.

DDF, with the ongoing support of Daventry District Council, continues to proactively work towards increasing membership and partnership working across the District. We now have well over 700+ members and aim to participate in continuing outreach work in the rural areas. DDF is now truly on the map with a well earned positive identity.

Emma Parry, our much valued DDC support link has put together a very comprehensive report on our work and the Daventry and District Forum has been nominated for the Municipal Journal Local Government Achievement Awards 2018 which take place in London on the 27th June 2018, consequently we are keeping our fingers crossed. DDF has demonstrated it can, when funding is low across all statutory and voluntary agencies, achieve a lot on a shoestring and improve the quality of life of the over fifties. I genuinely believe we will merit some recognition for our work to date. Here’s hoping!

The Ageing Well in Daventry District Strategy supported by DDF has also served to elicit important information that can be used to influence future plans and services.

I regularly represent DDF at the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Voluntary Forum giving input and continually raising our profile.

My ongoing thanks go to Emma, Deanna our Treasurer, Chris our Vice Chair and to all the Management Committee who voluntarily give up their time to make a success of DDF for the benefit of others. As always success depends on teamwork and working as a team is crucial.

The Management team also warmly welcomes our new member Jean Osborne. Also we all appreciate the support and input of all agencies and individuals who have worked with DDF in partnership at our Forums, agencies who provided information stands, and all those who have provided entertainment especially Burt Barber at our Tea Dances. I look forward to seeing members at our next forum at Daventry Leisure Centre in March.

Take care, kindest regards, Gloria Edwards-Davidson

For all the latest news from DDF please visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/ddf
Volunteer Recruitment

Citizens Advice Daventry and District provides free, confidential, impartial information and advice to the residents of Daventry Town and the surrounding District. We are based on the first floor of the Abbey buildings just off the Market Square in Daventry. The service relies on a group of dedicated volunteers who give their time freely each week to help others. We are currently looking for some more volunteers, people who have some free time and are willing to learn a new skill and give about 6 hours each week. We need people for the following roles;

- **Receptionists** – To meet and greet clients, take their information, see them through to the main waiting area and to carry out some other administration tasks.
- **Telephone Assessors** – To speak to clients on the countywide telephone system and help them to find the information they need. This could be referring or signposting them to other agencies. **Advisers** – To be part of the drop-in team to help clients face to face with information or full advice on a wide range of topics.
- **IT support** – If you have an IT background and can help with the day to day office needs relating to IT or can help with Social Media, Twitter, Facebook and the website. **Research and Campaigns support** – The office not only gives help to clients but runs campaigns to help influence change centrally and to influence decision makers in the future. We need support to be able to carry this out.
- **Trustee Board Member** – Local office trustee boards need people from all sections of the community with a wide range of different skills, experience and perspectives. **If you would like to find out more and get an information pack then please email administrator@daventry.cabnet.org.uk or telephone 01327 701644**

Daventry District Council launched their new on-line lottery, called Local Lotto on 21st February. The Local Lotto will enable local good causes, community groups and sports clubs raise a regular income as well as giving ticket buyers a chance to win up to £25,000 every week. The Council will make no profit from the Local Lotto with 50% of all ticket income going to local good causes and 30% going into the prize fund.

DDF will sign up for the Local Lotto to raise funds. Members can buy a weekly ticket once they start going on sale in March from [www.local-lotto.co.uk](http://www.local-lotto.co.uk). Tickets will be £1 each and DDF members can elect for 40p of the ticket price to go to DDF. Tim Cantwell from the Council will do a short presentation about the Local Lotto at the next DDF forum on 21st March at Daventry Leisure Centre from 2-4pm.

**For further information please contact Tim on 01327 871100.**
An old-fashioned favourite!

Goes easy on the wallet, and day-old bread works best in this recipe.

**Ingredients:** 25g/1oz butter, plus extra for greasing, 8 thin slices bread, 50g/2oz sultanas, 2 tsp cinnamon powder, 350ml/12fl oz whole milk, 50ml/2fl oz double cream, 2 free-range eggs, 25g/1oz granulated sugar, nutmeg, grated to taste.

**Method:** Grease a 1 litre/2 pint pie dish with butter. Cut the crusts off the bread. Spread each slice with one side with butter, then cut into triangles. Arrange a layer of bread, buttered-side up, in the bottom of the dish, then add a layer of sultanas. Sprinkle with a little cinnamon, then repeat the layers of bread and sultanas, sprinkling with cinnamon, until you have used up all of the bread. Finish with a layer of bread, then set aside.

Gently warm the milk and cream in a pan over a low heat to scalding point. Don’t let it boil. Crack the eggs into a bowl, add three quarters of the sugar and lightly whisk until pale. Add the warm milk and cream mixture and stir well, then strain the custard into a bowl. Pour the custard over the prepared bread layers and sprinkle with nutmeg and the remaining sugar and leave to stand for 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Place the dish into the oven and bake for 30-40 minutes, or until the custard has set and the top is golden-brown.

*Sourced online from BBC Food Recipes, By Griff Rhys Jones, From A Taste of My Life*

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**DDF Tea Dance/AGM a success**

The Daventry & District Forum AGM and Tea Dance held at Daventry Leisure Centre in December was a great event. It was so nice to see many people enjoying themselves, there were around 85-90 people that came and we have increased the DDF membership.

Our committee members have been elected and they are: Gloria Edwards-Davidson (Chair), Deanna Eddon (Treasurer), Chris Eddon (Vice-Chair), Gina King, Pat McAlister, Liz Pym, Annie Punch, Philip Punch, David Hutton, Jean Osbourne.

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**Success for Comfort and Joy Christmas parcel campaign**

The Community Safety Partnership and the Daventry & District Forum would like to say ‘Thank You’ to everyone who donated to the cause. Hundreds of food items, toiletries, toys and treats were donated by kind-hearted residents, schools and businesses across Daventry District and South Northamptonshire. They were sorted into parcels and wrapped for distribution to people who spent Christmas in a refuge as a result of experiencing domestic abuse.

Ann Bodsworth, of Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service, said: “People who find themselves in refuge have often had to leave their homes with little or no notice, leaving them without the basic essentials we all take for granted, so these donations mean so much”.

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**Member Biography - Shirley Georgina King (Ogden) OBE**

Born 4 July 1933. I am married, my husband is Professor Emeritus of Imperial College. I have four children, six grandchildren and four step grandchildren. I attended St. Martin’s School of Art and Royal College of Art NDD 1951-1955. I have an MA in Women’s Studies Nene College, 1991. I also have Creative Embroidery, City & Guilds part 1&2, Diploma 2003. I have been elected for various local council roles between 1977 – 2010, and was previous Chair of Daventry over 50s.

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For all the latest news from DDF please visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/ddf
Happy at Home would like to say an enormous “Thank you DHL” for your amazing fundraising for our project this year! DHL volunteers helped us with a Christmas lunch for over 60 guests providing them with a wonderful lunch and some amazing entertainment. The volunteers not only helped prepare and serve the Christmas lunch, they also spent time with the elderly residents talking to them, which was very important. One guest said “it was a fabulous afternoon with so much joy in one room”.

We are delighted that the total of funds now collected for Happy at Home has amounted to over £1000.00! “This money will support the project enormously, helping us to reach more isolated elderly people, and create more friendships” said Nicola Toms, Project Manager. “Events like these are so important, bringing together local residents, helping to build better links with their community, and increase wellbeing in both the residents and volunteers.”