

Debenham Shed report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May 2026

Debenham Shed, now eight years old, is housed on the 2 Fields Community Supported Farm site on Low Road, continues to serve about 40 members aged between 18 and 92 from Debenham and nearby villages and towns.

In the past year we have completed many community projects including the following:

- Eye Bank theatre: stage surround, pelmet and side pillars; external noticeboards, 2 sign enclosures, replacement radiator panels
- Bench from Debenham lake and Woodland (Jim Long): refurbish and install
- Mill Green noticeboard repairs and reinstallation for Stonham Aspal Parish Council
- More chairs reupholstered for Framsdon Village Hall

This is in addition to numerous projects completed on behalf of other members of the community. We are now working on constructing ten owl boxes for Barn Owl Support Suffolk, a Suffolk Bird Group project funded by East Suffolk Council Sizewell C mitigation grant, and may be constructing up to another 40. Another project in progress for Royal British Legion is to construct boxes for crosses and badges in front of the war memorial in the churchyard.

Our rear extension for welding and other hot work has been completed with the help of MSDC and SCC locality budgets. We also bought a second-hand farrier's portable forge, so we are now equipped for welding, angle grinding and blacksmithing—and perhaps small metal casting in the future. The next capital project will be a concrete pad outside for some repairs on cars and motorbikes.

We collaborate with the Debenham Green Team to promote Repair and Reuse, giving advice on repairs of all sorts and undertaking repairs if feasible. Our premises are also used by the DGT for bike repair workshops, by the Suffolk Tree Warden Network and by the Debenham Scout Group (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts).

Our AGM is on Friday 5th June at 4pm at the Shed, to which all are invited (only members can vote). We have vacancies for a Chairman and Trustee member, also an additional member of our Steering Group (i.e. committee).

We are open on Monday mornings 9am-12pm and, Fridays 10am-5pm. In addition there are Friday and Saturday workshops which currently include wood turning, 3D printing and candlemaking, all open to non-members. These and other activities are advertised in the Debenham Parish Magazine.

What is Debenham Shed? A place to make things by yourself, with guidance or with others. It could be in metal, cloth, wood or plastic. We have lots of tools and materials. You may want to repair or make new—the limit is your imagination. It is also for social connecting and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter. Debenham shed is open to all adults. Membership is by the year (£1 per week), half-year or PAYG (£10 p.a. plus session fees).

Tony Hutt

Treasurer, Debenham Shed
www.debenhamshed.org.uk

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