

FRIENDS OF BOTESDALE HEALTH CENTRE REPORT 2018

Whenever I return to the village from being in London, Scotland or abroad, my sensations of belonging are invariably aroused. I sense that there are vibrant features, with three churches, two pubs, outlets to purchase meals, a supermarket, several specialist shops, a regular bus service, a parish newsletter and many interest-centred groups plus, of course a medical centre serving an extensive area.

There is an identity about social life here. Organisations, business concerns and activities need concepts, structures, drive and energy - in a phrase, 'human involvement'. During 2017 the FoBHC has involved itself in raising revenue and being the custodian of its capital. This has resulted in the purchase of a range of equipment, kit and furniture to benefit personnel and patients at the medical practice.

These acquired assets ranged from laptops to torches, call-system updates to dymo- label writers, chairs for the receptionists and public, patients' text services to blood test-kits. The total amount of expenditure was £11,022.14 and the funds came from membership fees, donations, bequests and special events. The gifts of a minority of users have benefited the majority of those visiting and working in the Centre.

The special event of the year was a Car Treasure Hunt which started and finished at the Rickinghall Village Hall on Sunday 17 September. It attracted relatively few participants, although they much enjoyed the challenges set by Colin Wilson, who devised the course and clues. It was appropriate that those who took part travelled to fields and forests in distant parts of the Health Centre's catchment area.

In the foreseeable future, the Centre is likely to attract higher levels of registration. This is because there is to be an expansion of the facilities, providing more rooms and services. The concept of a 'miniature hospital - without beds' is being developed. Attention will focus on this aspect in a question-and-answer session after the AGM on Monday 14 May.

So those members attending will hear more details of the 2017 successes; will vote on a variety of issues concerning business and people; will participate in discussions on the prospective exciting future of an integral part of village life. If you are unable to attend, please remember the FoBHC by renewing, joining, donating or bequeathing. It is a group that endeavours to make a difference.

John Humphries - Chairman of the FoBHC