



Cherryhomes Trust

Supporting disabled people in the Cambridge area

Chairman's Report for AGM 2017

The main focus of the Trust's efforts continues to be supporting those with severe physical disabilities in their desire to live as normal and fulfilled a life as possible whilst remaining in their own homes.

As you may see from the Statement of Accounts prepared by our Hon Treasurer, 2016 was a quieter year than the previous one with only one significant item of expenditure; that being the sum required to complete the procurement of a Theracycle exercise machine. During 2014 and 2015 we had provided (through an hire / purchase agreement) a piece of equipment for someone who had been severely disabled through a stroke. Sadly, this person's condition worsened and the Theracycle ceased to be of benefit. The Trustees took the view that we should pay the relatively small outstanding amount and donate the equipment to a local unit where more people could reap the benefit. The Rehabilitation Unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital was felt to be an appropriate recipient. At the time of our last AGM, some liability issues were still outstanding. I am pleased to report that these were resolved and the equipment was formally handed over to Addenbrooke's at a brief ceremony on 21st July 2016. Addenbrooke's kindly produced a "medically suitable" label recognising our donation, something which was spotted by another of our sponsored members when he was subsequently referred to the unit at Addenbrooke's for treatment! Sadly I have to report that the sponsored member for whom the Theracycle was originally hired passed away a few weeks ago - our thoughts are with his family particularly at this time.

Although not involving the Trust in financial expenditure (yet), we have been active over a number of months in supporting a new sponsored member by attempting to persuade South Cambridgeshire District Council to make her kitchen wheelchair friendly. This is an ongoing issue and we will continue to support the person to ensure that a satisfactory outcome is achieved.

Our reserves remain at a healthy level due to generous regular donations from our supporters as well as fundraising activities by the Trustees. This year we have also benefitted from the Waitrose Community Matters (green token) scheme as well as donations from Bassingbourn United Reformed and Castle Street Methodist Churches - the latter resulting from a Barn Dance at which one of our Trustees was the "Caller". We continue to rely on, and be grateful for, all such donations and the work involved in organising fund raising activities.

We are looking forward to another fund raising Musical Evening at Melbourn United Reformed Church, who again are kindly donating their facilities, on the evening of 28th April. This year we welcome "The Montagnana Trio" of Catherine Wilmers (cello), Kate Elmitt (piano) and Emma Halnan (flute) - all internationally acclaimed musicians who give of their time. A hot supper and glass of wine will complete the evening.

We are and wish to remain a small local charity - it is by being such that we can continue to provide that personal relationship with those we seek to assist.

Our website www.cherryhomes.org.uk continues to be a useful vehicle to publicise what we do and we express our continued thanks to Dr Aidan Van de Weyer (the husband of our Hon. Secretary) for his continued support as our webmaster.

Finally, I should like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow Officers and all the Trustees for their work in support of Cherryhomes.

For the coming year and in line with our Charity Commission approved Governing Document, the Trustees have re-elected the previous officers to serve for a further year and so, subject to there having been no previous dissention at this AGM, the Trustees are as follows:

Angela Craxford Snelling, Joyce Goodall, Margaret Hewat, Barry Monk (Chairman), Beryl Monk (Hon. Treasurer), Kathleen Shepherd and Rosaline Van de Weyer (Hon. Secretary).

(Barry Monk - Chairman)

13th March 2017