



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023/24

This has been another quiet year with little in the way of new equipment purchased. However, running expenses (maintenance, insurance, consumables) represented over 95% of our expenditure and overall, we made a net loss of £197. This was a considerable improvement on 2022-23 largely due to the lower level of purchases.

Any new purchases in the current year will again have a significant effect on the bottom line unless we can raise additional funds.

We are currently in the process of working closely with the Surgery to review the equipment that was purchased after the fire in 2019. The aim is to develop a 5-year plan for any replacements required due to wear and tear or lack of manufacturer's ongoing maintenance due to age and/or indeed technical advancements.

As I said last year the effects of covid have had a profound effect on the fundraising climate particularly for small charities like ours. We do have substantial reserves, and this raises the question of why we don't use these to balance the budget. The answer to that is that income from these reserves has contributed not far short of 40% of our total income for the last year and so it is clearly not advisable to take action that would dilute this.

At the last AGM two of our members suggested that when a particular piece of expensive equipment is required, we should mount an appeal specifically for this and give it as much publicity as possible. We consider this to be sound advice and we shall follow it.

Our fundraising Quiz Night was again held in the Sun Inn in Dunsfold and was a great success contributing nearly £1500 to our funds. Once again, we are grateful to Elle Cremer for welcoming us to her pub and looking after us so well.

Our Treasurer for several years and before that secretary, Lynne Hamill, retired as a trustee and committee member during the year. She has been replaced by Adam Stebbings who is an accountant and therefore quite clever with numbers. Adam has lived in Chiddingfold for three years and he and his wife, Alice, are also helping other voluntary organisations in the village. We are very grateful to Lynne for all her hard work and commitment to the Trust over many years and we were very sorry to see her go.

My thanks to all our supporters and donors and to my fellow committee members.

Simon Inchbald
Chairman