

CREAMER FUND

Chair's Report for the AGM

March 2020

I would like, as always, to thank the Trustees for all their hard work. This year we have to say 'good bye' to two long standing members of our team. Penny Edmundson has decided to hand over the duties of secretary. Kay Painter has also made the decision, after 10 years as Treasurer, to take a well-earned rest. We very much appreciate all their work and are sad to lose them. We are fortunate however, to have candidates from our current Trustees who are prepared to stand for election for these offices.

I would like to express special thanks to Sylvia Gould for her hard work as Fund raising Co-ordinator. Sylvia and her team are 'front of house' and are vital to keep the CREAMER Fund in peoples' minds.

With regard to exposure, we have worked hard on our notice board and a leaflet, which many will have seen. We are continuing to explore better ways to communicate with the community, including the use of social media. The leaflet we produced has a 'donate' section with details for Gift Aid. This has prompted very welcome income from some patients who feel that they would like to make a contribution towards their prescription costs. There is no system to allow for this and they feel the CREAMER Fund is a good way to do it.

This year the CREAMER Fund has spent £17,000 to fund X-ray services. This is the only service of its kind in Essex. £13,000 has been spent on ultra-sound services provided at the surgery, saving patients a trip to Braintree or Chelmsford. £14,000 has funded a musculoskeletal therapist to support our patients in making a quick recovery from a range of conditions. The Fund has also continued to provide defibrillators. We now have 19 installed in our surrounding Parishes to support all the community. The cost so far for this is £36,500.

The purpose of the CREAMER Fund is to provide and assist in the provision of facilities, support services and equipment not normally provided by the statutory authorities. We work for all the community, not just patients of Freshwell. Our future input may include some healthy living advice. It is better to avoid medical intervention than to require it.

We understand our responsibilities to maintain the existing equipment purchased by the CREAMER Fund, so we will always strive to reserve money for this. In the last few years, we have spent more money than we have received so are running down our reserves. We are always very grateful for any contribution to keep the CREAMER Fund running.

Chris Blewett

Chair