

FRIENDS OF BOTESDALE HEALTH CENTRE REPORT 2017

With the closure of the post office and the White Horse, there has been a decline in walking through the villages and that vital add-on feature, conversing. At least the Botesdale Health Centre is situated in a position that lends itself to taking a stroll. A major concern of the FoBHC Committee is to see how it can assist in the development of the Centre to be just that, central to the well-being of the community.

We want the building to be a hub in which diagnosis, action and treatment are undertaken with safety, speed and certainty. While NHS funding covers the fundamentals, the FoBHC strives to provide additional equipment and services. More people are joining as members and a number of individuals are donating in order to help make that difference.

The items purchased include the television licence, an examination couch, desk chairs for staff, blood pressure monitors, oximeters, ophthalmoscope heads, liquid nitrogen and linking the 'health pod' to patient records. The blood-testing kits enable nurses to acquire virtually instant results which save patients from having to return to discover the findings.

The total cost for these was over £7000, met from membership fees, donations, bequests and special events such as the Horseracing Evening at the Rickingham Village Hall. Innovative products have been purchased as a direct result of these initiatives which, if continued successfully, could lead to the creation of what is a miniature hospital - without beds!

The use of the Botesdale Health Centre is guaranteed to all residents; the involvement of those people who commit time, effort and resources to the organisation is much appreciated. Here is an activity for a long-established village institution, helping to make it a flagship of good medical practice within an extensive and busy catchment area

John Humphries - Chairman of the FoBHC