

## Chairman's Report

*At the time of writing my report, it would seem that due to Covid19, mass meetings will not be allowed. Thus, this AGM information will be disseminated by e-mail, rather than in a physical meeting.*

I believe this has been another successful year.

Until Covid19 came along (more later) the number of clients attending Marlow House were holding steady, as were the numbers for Meals on Wheels.

At the start of the financial year Ruth Colby, one of the Marlow House trustees, moved away from the area so regretfully we lost her services. I am pleased to report that we have two new Trustees waiting in the wings, who hopefully will join us once Vine Community Trust becomes a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation**. (As advised in the annual report last year)

During the year we lost Erika McCullers, Ian Liddle and our Head of Care, Shannon Chivers. We welcome Amanda Bewers who came into the office as a finance clerk to help with the clerical and financial reporting.

Regretfully our manager Amanda Green has been unable to attend work since the beginning of January due to ill health. From that date Elaine Vandenburg has stepped in to cover for Amanda, so, on behalf of the Trustees, thank you Elaine.

Due to Covid19, Marlow House closed its doors to daily attendance clients from close of business on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a very sad day. The intention of the Trust is to receive clients again once lockdown and distancing rules have been relaxed.

The day centre clients, who regretfully can no longer visit Marlow House, have been added to our list of Meals on Wheels clients, but with added care. My thanks go out to the volunteers who have, together with the staff, continued to assist in providing this most needed service.

We have continued to employ our staff, which, under the current leadership of Elaine, has become most proficient in cleaning, painting, gardening and various other chores without complaint. I, and the rest of the Trustees, thank you very much for your endeavours.

I wish to recognise the great support given to Vine Community Trust by my fellow Trustees throughout the year, thank you.

Regarding our financial results, we again show a small surplus before depreciation similar to last year. Our balance sheet also remains strong with some reserves for more challenging times.

Vine Community Trust thanks all the charitable entities who have provided us with funds for either core costs, or special purchases. We convey our thanks too to our group of Patrons who make regular donations and also to our supporters who give prizes for raffles, buy and sell raffle tickets and help with various events, especially the regular coffee mornings. Lynda Cosgrove continues to help organise the coffee mornings and strive tirelessly in the background on her fundraising activities and spreading the word of Marlow House. Thank you Lynda.

Our grateful thanks once again go to Seatons Solicitors for their continued support and to the Florence Jesse Cleaver Trust, which they manage. We have this year, with their support, been able to purchase a new multi-seat minibus to replace our old minibus which has given us over 10 years' service.

With the current global pandemic, I am sure next year will be very challenging, both for our clients, who currently cannot attend, and for Marlow House as an entity. Like all charities, our financial aim is not to make vast surpluses or deficits but to ensure that we make sufficient surplus for the charity to maintain its services. The Covid-19 global pandemic certainly represents a challenge as we will lose a significant income stream without a consequent reduction in our cost base. We will certainly face some financial trials going forward but the trustees will be making every effort to ensure that we can continue to provide the service to meet our charitable aims.

I look forward to next year when hopefully, once again, the Vine Community Trust AGM can be held in Marlow House.