

## **Report from the Chair 2020/2021**

We have had quite an extraordinary year with lots of changes arising around the world, but ALBRAM has once again been excellent in supporting the community as best as possible. Today we need to support each other more than ever, making sure that we are there for each other.

Coronavirus hit us in March and still rears its ugly head. Our Queen gave a historic speech to the nation stating “we’ll meet again” which I’m sure we will, but when, is a very different matter. We have had Lockdown, Shielding, Social distancing, Test and Trace, but the ones on the front line are Our Heroes who have been there all the way through this pandemic. Each week for many months the public clapped for the NHS, which was well deserved. Sadly though during this period of time ALBRAM was suspended too.

My thanks and gratitude goes to all in both the surgeries for their outstanding work that has been achieved during this period of time. I know it has been extremely difficult for everyone who has had to adapt to a new way of delivery a service to the public.

The surgeries have been committed and have done an extraordinary and excellent job of keeping both surgeries open and changing how things are delivered i.e. video calls, telephone conversations and face to face appointments if needed. PPE was also put in place for all staff to keep them safe too.

Before the pandemic and since our last AGM in 2019, I must say a thank you to Duncan for his excellent photos which were very interesting of his sabbatical.

We held a Car Scheme Social in August 2019 which was well attended with drivers from both Alconbury and Brampton. We had decided that it would be a nice gesture to give the drivers certificates for their length of service, as some of our drivers have been driving for 20 years plus. It was an excellent evening with lovely food, donated by the committee and drinks donated by the surgeries. It was nice for everyone to meet one another.

The committee continued to raise money but we only managed to have 1 raffle last year at Christmas, and sadly none this year. The prizes donated were once again outstanding including a hamper from the Lamacrafts, meal at the xxxx pub, Measures Butchers in Brampton, and the Hair salon in Alconbury. Thanks were given to the Lamacrafts, xxxx Pub, Measures and the Hair Salon. My thanks also goes to Harry once again for his hard work in sorting out the tickets and to those who collated, sorted and delivered the prizes.

We had stalls at the Brampton fete and Alconbury fete but it has been decided we will only do one of them in consecutive years, as getting the people to run the stalls proves quite difficult. We were lucky last year as some of the drivers were around to sell raffle tickets and I believe they did really well. My thanks to Sue, Kim, Di and Steve for their help too.

Donations are still being donated, including monies from Mr Burton's family. With these monies, and the car scheme monies, we have been able to purchase quite a substantial amount of equipment for both surgeries. These include Cryotherapy for surgeries, audiometer, Air conditioning units for both surgeries, BP cuffs; stand-alone BP machine (sadly cannot be used at present due to COVID).

Earlier in the year Harry Cairns retired as our Treasurer after 5 years. It was sad to see him go and I would like to thank him for keeping our books up to date for this period of time. We now have a new Treasurer who is Di Barnet and I am sure Di will do an excellent job and I welcome her in her new role. Also we had Hammi xxxxx who was co-opted onto the committee so I would like to welcome Hammi too.

At our one and only committee meeting in October 2020 we were also able to purchase a nurses trolley, cryomachine, 10 x BP machines/cuffs and a phlebotomy chair which is excellent.

The surgeries have also been able to provide more phlebotomy sessions and admin cover at Brampton, electronic FP10's are now in place, extra admin in reception and secretarial support to help with patient's demands.

I am extremely grateful to all our volunteer drivers for the time they gave to the Car Scheme and I am sure Kim will update you in his report later. Many changes have happened within the car scheme over the past months and I know it has been a difficult time, but there are still some drivers who are willing to help deliver prescriptions to the residents. I wish to thank Kim, Sue and Di for their hard work in keeping the car scheme ticking over.

Sue is still keeping us in the technology age with ALBRAM on Facebook and in addition updating the website. My thanks to Sue.

If you are registered with either Alconbury or Brampton Surgery, you are a member of ALBRAM. The patients' group could not function without the input from all the Committee members, the Practice representatives, Dr Duncan Rea and Practice Manager Melanie Gearing. With so much going on during this year my thanks go to all the staff at Brampton and Alconbury who have worked so hard in this incredible year. Hopefully with the new vaccine the world will become a much safer place.

Before I go I would just like to say a few words about 2 of our dear friends Roger Wall and Harry Cairns who sadly passed away. Roger was one of the first to be a part of ALBRAM in 1990. He was Chair from 1991 – 1995, then a committee member and also a driver for many years. Harry was our Treasurer and a whizz at the raffles and book stalls. Both are remembered with fondest memories.

Lastly I would like to thank all the committee members who are dedicated in giving their time to help ALBRAM run smoothly and who work so hard.

Thank you

**Jacqui Richmond July 2020**