

## Chairman's Annual Report 2020

### SUMMARY

It is important that we find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference. Those people are you, the volunteers. PhysioNet is a small charity but is making a massive difference to people's lives all over the world.

'We may not be able to help everyone in the world but we can make a world of difference to one person.'

In the previous year we have touched the lives of many thousands of people and I am confident that I can give them a voice by saying thank you all for the greatest gift, your time.

PhysioNet continues to 'punch well above its weight' and has experienced another record year. Our operations are always one of push pull logistics, with more equipment availability but with the same space restrictions. Never the less the Gelsthorpe Farm depot serves our needs well for which we offer our sincere gratitude to the owners Mr and Mrs Ian Mattocks. As always, an additional challenge is recruiting more volunteers for working at the barn, collecting and loading equipment.

Over the past year PhysioNet has been delighted to have regular volunteers on our early Saturday loadings from the staff and pupils of Queen Ethelburga's College. A welcome change to the demographic profile of our regular volunteers.

### DEVELOPMENTS

During 2019 PhysioNet, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Inverness Culloden, successfully established a new centre for operations based in Inverness, Scotland. This collection hub was set up to service the Highland NHS who are operating a rolling programme of wheelchair replacement estimated at 3,800 units. Additionally, we have established a further restorative justice program with the Scottish Prison Service Inverness who help repair damaged wheelchairs. A further partnership for equipment repair is with a local charity Men in Sheds. We hope that this new operation will lead to direct equipment shipments from Scotland, saving significant collection costs and reducing our 'carbon footprint'.

During the last half of 2019 negotiations with the Youth Offenders section of HMP Wetherby resulted in a group of young offenders and their supervisors attending work sessions at the York depot on Mondays. Their contribution is much appreciated. Hopefully this will continue throughout 2020.

### TRUSTEES AND PATRONS

Have remained unchanged. Formal trustees meeting are held on a regular bi-monthly basis.

### SUPPORT GROUPS

Our support groups remain extremely busy collecting equipment. The South East of England (Saffron Walden) have increased the frequency of deliveries into the York depot and now account for over 50% of all equipment delivered. The South West of England group continue to operate at breakneck speed and have been successful in dispatching another 40 ft container overseas. The transfer depot at Maisemore, Gloucester remains in continuous use. The new Inverness group continue to collect, repair and store wheelchairs but at a rate slower than at first advised by the Highland NHS. However, other potential Scottish NHS suppliers have donated equipment which augments that already collected and in storage.

### **PUBLICITY, PR and SOCIAL MEDIA**

Nick Bentley continues doing a sterling job keeping and expanding the website. As a result, our social media output is increasing. Andy Barmer, as editor has positively transformed the PhysioNet Newsletter.

### **SHIPMENTS**

Call on Peter to report separately

### **COLLECTIONS**

I wish that I could report that "storage has expanded to meet the collections available". Sadly this is not true, but we hope to do better next year.

### **REPAIR and PACKING**

PhysioNet still works in collaboration with the Margaret Carey Foundation (MCF) and Garth Prison, Lancashire within a restorative justice system but progress is slow. However, on the positive side during 2019 we started a similar system with the Scottish Prison Service and HMP Youth Offenders Wetherby who have been sending young offenders to the York depot as volunteers.

Equipment repairs, in general, remain heavily reliant on volunteers at the main York depot.

### **STORAGE FACILITIES**

Gelsthorpe Farm remains the charity's main storage facility which we have had permission to increase by approximately 20%, but requires further work to make it more 'fit for purpose'. We continue to have very valuable storage space at Dishforth Airfield courtesy VI Regiment, the Royal Logistical Corps. New storage has opened in Inverness but is limited to that area, nevertheless very welcome. Storage in both the South East and South West of England remain a challenge.

### **NEW MARKETS**

We supplied one new country (India) during the year. Otherwise the pattern has been, in the main, to supply countries and often recipients who have taken consignments in the past. This is because recipients eg in

South Africa, Fiji and Zimbabwe (10 out of 14 consignments) can cover the shipping and also make a £1,000 contribution to PhysioNet's costs.

We are very aware that there are deserving potential recipients who are known to be a "safe pair of hands". They can cover the in-country costs but struggle to pay more than a modest percentage of the shipping. We need to look at ways of helping these potential recipients in the future.

## THE THERAPY GROUP REPORT.

Children's equipment continues to arrive in increasing quantities, with another 20 % increase this year and about 5% scrappage. We are very happy to see this amount coming in as news spreads though the therapy world and recycling becomes more topical. The NHS tends to write off children's equipment after 5 years but we often see items which are 10-15 years old and still perfectly useable.

There are now 4 paediatric therapists and 2 husbands working on the children's equipment. A further therapist who specialises in adult wheelchairs visits the depot occasionally.

Since the last AGM, training visits have been made to South Africa, Kenya, Romania, India and Sri Lanka. We are working with a "competency programme", funded last year by the Thackray Medical Research Foundation and now by the Souter Foundation. This enables us to deliver training to several countries. The aim is to ensure that overseas recipients are competent in fitting, adjusting and maintaining children's equipment. Romania was the first country to successfully complete their training in December; they are now training other organisations in the country that come to them for equipment. This funding not only helps us to ensure the equipment users are confident and able, but we are also able to provide clinical support on subjects like manual handling, or 24hr postural care. It's a real joy to see children properly positioned and able to participate in play and family activities, as many of you will have seen on the PhysioNet website or Facebook page.

Our challenges are obtaining spare parts, space to properly look at equipment and sometimes time to process it before shipping and between training trips.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the therapy volunteers. We all travel considerable distances to help and some also have jobs. Without them it would not be possible to keep up with supply and demand.

Thank you

Heather Angilley MCSP, SRP

## **Treasurer's Report for 2019**

2019 was a successful year in terms of fund raising with substantial gifts from new donors, The Souter Charitable Trust and The Ellen Foundation, in addition to those made by regular donors, The Persula Trust and The Penelope Martin Trust. Although the cash contributions from Rotary Clubs are down, their non-cash contributions are substantial in terms of collections made by Saffron Walden and the efforts of Inverness Culloden.

Gift aid has increased, largely as a result of in-kind donations and contributions towards collection costs by the recipients have increased. The contributions towards shipping costs have increased largely because fewer recipients have paid the costs directly to the shippers locally.

The expenses have remained roughly in line with 2018 except that we have made fewer shipments where the costs have been paid locally, by the recipients rather than via ourselves.

The surplus generated will allow for the expansion of the storage facilities in North Yorkshire and the possible acquisition of rented facilities elsewhere. In addition, the surplus within restricted funds will allow for an expansion of the recipient training and follow up programmes.

Carl Stitt  
March 2020

**Accounts for the year ended December 31, 2019**

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds (1) £	Total Funds £	2018 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Donations				
Gift Aided donations including gift aid (2) (3)	21,960	500	22,460	9,089
Rotary/Inner Wheel	2,430	0	2,430	4,785
Trusts & charities	12,740	23,000	35,740	3,000
Other	1,380	4,345	5,725	1,529
Contributions to shipping costs	24,925	0	24,925	15,300
Contributions to collection costs	10,775	0	10,775	4,765
Social Event	0	0	0	1,043
Scrap Sales	261	0	261	622
Exceptional item - transfer from old charity	0	0	0	28,705
Total Receipts	<u>74,470</u>	<u>27,845</u>	<u>102,315</u>	<u>68,838</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Freight and shipping costs	(24,925)	(1,132)	(26,057)	(15,300)
Collection costs	(18,808)	(5,676)	(24,484)	(23,603)
Post and publicity	(2,741)	0	(2,741)	(1,232)
Internet costs	29	0	29	(277)
Insurance	(415)	0	(415)	(415)
Sundry	(292)	0	(292)	(237)
Storage premises repairs/equipment	0	0	0	(1,113)
Premises and rental	(4,200)	0	(4,200)	(3,834)
Bank charges	(8)	0	(8)	(2)
Independent review	(420)	0	(420)	(360)
Social Event expenses	(228)	0	(228)	0
Thackray Expenses	0	(3,539)	(3,539)	(4,461)
Souter Expenses	0	(593)	(593)	0
Travelling expenses	(97)	(500)	(597)	0
Manx Containers	0	0	0	(5,000)
Total Payments	<u>(52,106)</u>	<u>(11,440)</u>	<u>(63,546)</u>	<u>(55,834)</u>
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	22,364	16,405	38,769	13,004
Transfers between funds	2,924	(2,924)	0	0

Cash funds brought forward	9,465	3,539	13,004	28,705
Cash funds carried forward	34,753	17,020	51,773	41,709

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE YEAR

**CASH FUNDS**

Bank Balance	34,753	17,020	51,773	41,709
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**Notes**

(1) The restricted funds comprise:

Equipment freight costs from the Isle of Man	£ 3,553
Collection, storage and handlin costs	3,533
Shipping subsidy	1,660
Spare parts	407
Travel etc for equipment recipient training	7,866
	£ 17,020

(2) Gift Aid due in respect of the fourth quarter is £ 3,302 but is not reflected above.

(3) Gift Aid received comprises amounts received on cash donations that are reflected in these accounts and on certain costs and equipment worth £ 18,302 that have been privately donated that are not reflected in these accounts.