



Chairman's Report

Little Hiccups AGM 25/11/20

If you're feeling anything like me then I suspect that you'll be wanting to see the back of this year – it's been a tough one to say the least. I am an optimist and I try to find the positive in situations, (more below) but it cannot be ignored that this year has been pants.

We have each had to deal with all manner of personal anxieties and concerns over families, friends and work. As parents, carers and family members we have also taken on many anxieties of others as well. LH has done its best this year to support those who are isolated and have been carrying the anxieties of their family through counselling, stay and play (when we were permitted) and via Facebook. For that I am grateful.

Caring for children can be difficult at the best of times, but under these circumstances it has been incredibly challenging for us all. People have felt remote or isolated but people have stepped up to check in on them or help out. For that I am grateful.

Getting the Delta buggies out and about this year has enabled our members to access the wider world which otherwise would be shut off to them. Being outside and enjoying the world has never had more meaning that it has this year. The legacy of the efforts for those that raised funds for the buggies is something to be proud of.

Those who rely upon the NHS or statutory services can have an uphill battle on their hands at the best of times, but during lockdowns and tiers it has pushed people to the brink of their sanity. However, with these challenges it has forced many in the professional world to embrace technology which allows remote video consultations in a safe and prompt manner. For that I am grateful.



The fact that video technology can also now add speech recognition text means that those with hearing impairments are not precluded from being part of the conversation. It means that I don't have to speak in a squeaky high voice for Miriam and for that I am grateful.

It has caused parliament to pause and think about those who have disabilities and whether the world should better consider the health needs of others such that they should not be forced to travel to a destination of inconvenience to take part. Whilst those who wish to take part in person should be empowered to do so, the important thing is to have the choice.

Many have experienced loss this year. It is heartbreaking to lose a loved one. I hope that through the love and support from LH we can continue to support our members through the toughest of times and continue to be there for them.

When Trump was beaten I dared to think that maybe we have turned a corner. Then we have had news of a vaccine which is proving to be very effective, then it was 2 and now it is 3. We are now allowed to meet with our families at Christmas. We must remain careful, but this is good for the soul. There is hope for Spring and with that I cannot help but wonder if 2020 was our annus horribilis it is incumbent upon all of us to make 2021 our annus mirabilis.

I am immensely proud and grateful for what each of the LH trustees have done behind the scenes to keep the show on the road this year. A superb effort. Thank you.

James Thompson