



Chairman's Report 2021

I almost limited this report to "Cancelled due to Covid-19" but it would be a glib review of the achievements that have been made and the efforts invested into this year, despite the challenges.

It has been tough for everyone, but I think it is fair to say it has probably been tougher for our members when compared to the general public. The CDC recognises that *"...some people with disabilities might be more likely to get infected or have severe illness because of underlying medical conditions, congregate living settings, or systemic health and social inequities. All people with serious underlying chronic medical conditions like chronic lung disease, a serious heart condition, or a weakened immune system seem to be more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19."* The impact that the risk and reality that Covid has posed to physical health coupled with the impact on mental health, our members have never been in more need of our support.

We have lost some of our members along the way this year. It never gets easier and our thoughts and love are with their families and friends. We miss you and won't forget you.

We have done the best we can in the circumstances. The trustees have been hard at work providing remote support where and when they can. The flow of information via emails, social media and the website has been excellent and even though we haven't always been able to be there in person, we have tried to be there when and where we can for our members. Counselling and Outreach continued throughout via phone or online streaming.

LH has been quick to return to in person events once we have been permitted to do so. Stay and play reopened in April and has continued with between 23 to 31 attendees per month. The Green Moon Forest School in May as attended by 30 members and the Iveridge Hall Tea Party booked for 14 August is sold out. The



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remote support that has been provided this year before we were permitted to open up has been invaluable, though getting back to some semblance of normality and returning to in person events is worth its weight in gold. We are continuing to focus on how we can deliver these events safely and hope to be able to provide more dates for events that we can all look forward to for the remainder of the year.

The all-terrain buggies have been out and about over the Summer and it is such a joyous sight to see these being used for their purpose and to know that the efforts that went into raising the funds for these have been well spent.

We have taken the opportunity to make and mend during the quieter times so as to invest in the future. Miriam has completed an update of the website, policies have been reviewed and updated and we have reinvested in professional fundraising so as to be able to reap the benefits of the same for our members in the future and try to shine more light into all our lives.

The Trustees also invested their time considering the anonymised Principle Trust Holidays applications and we were very pleased to facilitate the successful applicants being offered a well-earned and deserved holiday to look forward to.

Membership numbers continue to rise and we as we all make use of digital paperless forms we are able to improve upon our governance and data protection. We are bigger, we are better.

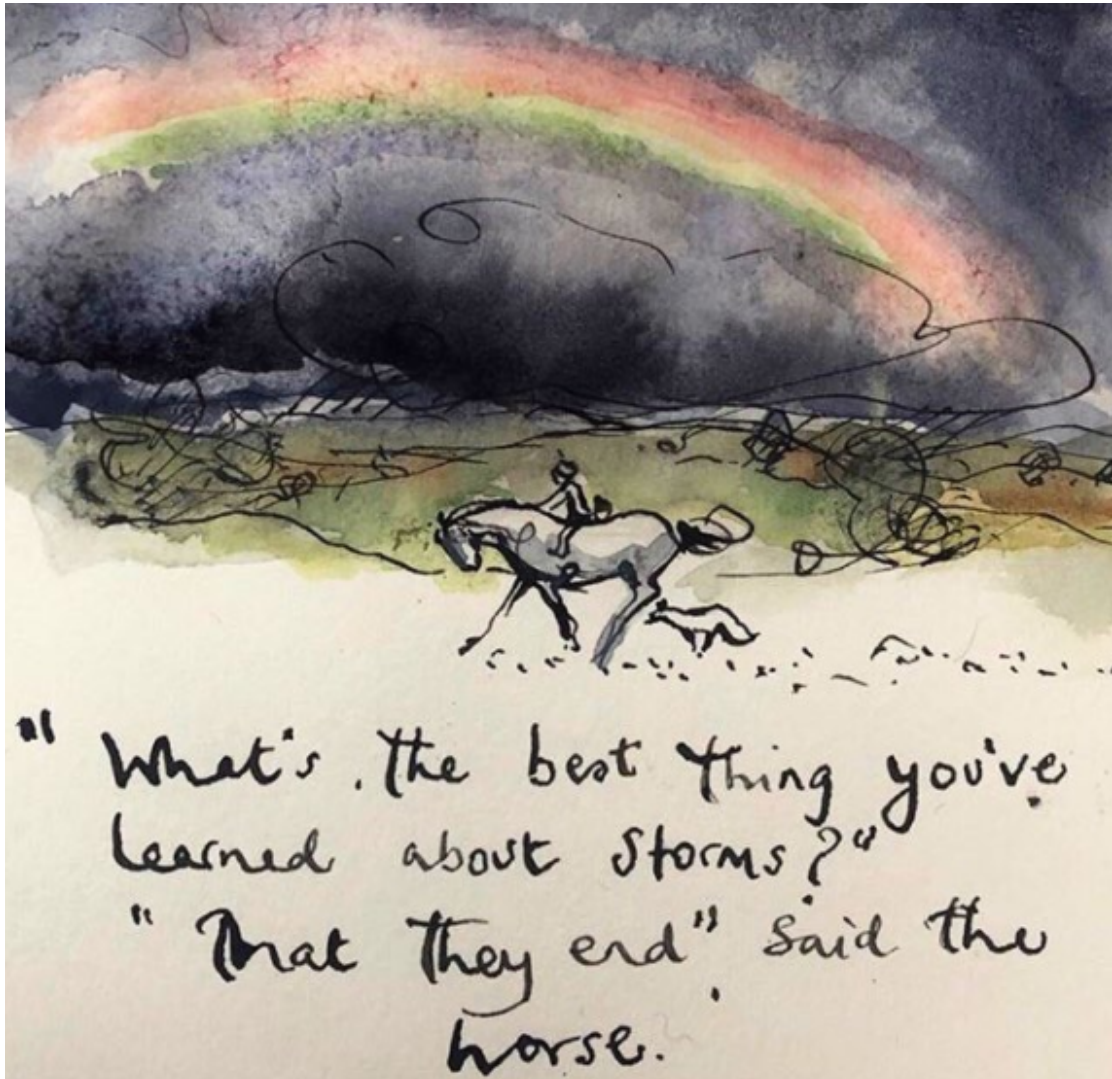
With vaccinations, hopefully the significant risk and interruption to our lives that Covid poses will end. Whether our kids will be vaccinated is an evolving picture and we will have to see how we go. However, whatever the future LH will there with our members to make the best of what we are able to do in a safe and responsible manner so as to improve the lives of all.



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Much love
James Thompson, (Chairman)



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