

Chairman's Report 2022



"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."

It's lovely to be back. The kindness and support that the LH members, trustees and volunteers bring to each other and our community is invaluable. To be able to connect with each other in person and interact without a filter has withdrawn the physical and emotional barriers which were so hard to deal with during 2020/21. However, we remain mindful to those who cannot reduce the measures they take to protect themselves and loved one.

The kids continue to wow us with their never ending ability to overcome. We've made some incredible memories this year with the range of events we have hosted and it is exciting that we have many ideas and plans for the forthcoming year with some really big events to continue to celebrate each and every member and their wider support network. We rock!

The buggies have been out and about and we have had some lovely pictures and feedback which we have sought to share with those that helped raise the funds. The legacy of their help and LH support continues and grows. We have also introduced the travel beds and there is a steady increase in the take up of these.

Stay and play is bi-weekly offering more to our wide community and has resulted in the need for more help.

The lovely Heather has joined the Trustees as a full-time director and her addition is greatly appreciated and valued. It also shows that as an organisation we continue to grow at a steady organic rate in keeping with our families, which now tops 500.

We have also gained another volunteer on a formal basis with the addition of Belinda "B" the almighty. Her support of LH has been steadfast for many years and it is fantastic that she has taken another step with us. We very much appreciate it.

Parent/Carer nights have been a welcome addition reflecting the fact that before you can care for others, you must care for yourself. They are in their infancy, but the early signs are good and I suspect they will continue to be a great success.

Family fun days have been very popular and we have listened to the feedback and implemented change so as to make access to these events as fair as possible.

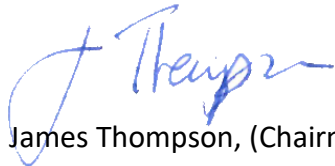
The Trustees also again invested their time considering the anonymised Principle Trust Holidays applications and we were very pleased to facilitate the successful applicants being offered a well-earned and deserved holiday to look forward to.

Membership numbers continue to rise and 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.

We have received recognition for the work we put in and have won a few awards this year, including but not limited to the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services. We are proud and privileged to be able to earn such accolades doing what we love. Helping and making lives better.

We look forward to making 2022/23 an even better year for all.

Much love

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Thompson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Thompson, (Chairman)