

LTSDA Chairmans Report 2021

I would like to start off this report with a HUGE thank you to all the members for managing to survive a very difficult year! With the help of Zoom we have been able to see one another regularly and still organise events. Again like the previous year, most major events had to be cancelled, however we still managed to engage with the Longridge community through different channels. Thanks again to you all for your help and support received for the fundraising events that we were able to have.

As you may remember we had an issue with the Bag2School collection in October 2020, they claimed half the bags were water damaged and refused to take them away. Fortunately we managed to find another clothing collection point at Musselburgh who welcomed the clothes. At this point we moved away from using Bag2School and went with RagBag. They provide a collection whenever the 'bank' is full which is much better for our community as it means parents etc can have a clean out more than once a year! We have raised £344 from November last year up until Aug 21. A huge thank you to all parents, friends, staff and children for cleaning out their drawers on a more regular basis and donating to a worthy cause.

The next event in the LTSDA calendar would normally have been the the annual Christmas Fair. However due to Covid 19 this had to be cancelled. All was not lost as we were still able to run the Christmas Raffle. The number of raffle prizes surpassed anything we had seen before, again showing the generosity of both the LTSDA members and the Longridge Community. The raffle raised an amazing amount of £1310.80. The committee took the decision to donate 50% of our profits to charity. This meant we donated £315 each to MASH as part of NCC covering the English side, and for the Scottish side to the Borders Children's Charity.

Both organisations were delighted to receive the gift and for the support it enabled them to give to older children at Christmas.

Between Christmas and New Year we entered into the Christmas Eco online Balloon race! Each person had to name a balloon, decorate it and select what it should be made of. Then on Christmas Day the race started and lasted 5 days. Participants were able to track their balloon amongst other Longridge Community entries. It was great fun seeing who was in the lead each day. Deducting the cost of prizes the event raised a total of £124.71

During the Spring we would normally host the annual Quiz night, but again we were unable to do this due to the Covid 19 restrictions. As there were no restaurants or eateries open we asked a Longridge parent – Lucy Wilson (who has her own catering business) if she would cook 5 meals for a family of 4 people and we raffled this prize. As people were fed up of cooking and not being able to go out to eat this was a great success and raised a fantastic amount of £694.05. A huge thank you to Lucy Wilson, for her collaboration and generosity.

Again due to Covid 19 all Summer activities ie Sports Day etc had to be cancelled again.

To summarise, it has been another very quiet year for the LTSDA committee.

At last year's AGM the following we re-elected:

Chairman – Lucy Armstrong
Treasurer – Julie Gilmour
Secretary – Jane Lindsay
100 Club Secretary – Caroline Tempest

During the year we said goodbye to a few committee members, with our thanks for all their efforts. In addition to committee members we also welcomed a few new parents who prefer to be 'helpers' which we call upon for any school events.

There will be a change of committee this next year, Julie is stepping down as Treasurer, however fortunately she will still stay on the committee. I would personally like to say a HUGE thank you to Julie for doing an amazing job. She has implemented great improvements and systems into the role as well as being the most efficient person I know!

The following committee member has been nominated for the positions:

Treasurer

Thank you again for all your help and ongoing support.

Lucy Armstrong
Chair