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## **Letter from the Chairman of Phab, John B W Corless, OBE**

We have been greatly saddened by the recent loss of our President, Ed Stewart who died suddenly of a stroke on 9<sup>th</sup> January. Ed supported Phab with great passion for over 40 years and he will be greatly missed.

Phab is now approaching its Diamond Jubilee in 2017 and the charity continues to inspire and support people of all ages and abilities to make more of life together. We have achieved a great deal since Phab was founded in 1957, but there is still an important need in the community for our work and the vital role it plays in our society.

Despite the difficult economic situation of the last few years I am pleased to say that Phab remains in a secure and sound financial position. This is due to the support we receive from trusts, companies and especially many individuals who have provided funds or given freely of their time, and to the marathon runners for their tireless efforts and support to Phab who over the years have raised significant funds for our work.

We are deeply indebted to the hundreds of volunteers who enable Phab throughout England and Wales to flourish. Our network of clubs is for all age groups and abilities and offers activities and holidays which members can share and enjoy together.

Phab's Inclusive Living Experiences and Skills for Independence projects are hugely successful, providing a safe, supportive environment which builds self-confidence and encourages young people to explore their horizons, to learn new skills and make new friends. We continue to expand this part of our work.

We are actively recruiting and supporting young people to take Phab forward through the very successful residential weeks held at Westminster School, Merchant Taylors' and St Helen's Schools and at Wellington College. New clubs and projects continue to be established within a number of universities. It is my vision, supported by my fellow trustees, to promote Phab to a younger generation in order to ensure its success well into the future and I am delighted to say that this work is showing steady growth.

The recent adverse publicity caused by badly governed charities has made fundraising even more difficult. Phab takes its responsibilities of governance and compliance under the Charities Act and Companies Act extremely seriously. Matters of finance, law, risk management and safeguarding are discussed at both Board and Finance Meetings twelve times each year. Phab has never, and will never, share its supporters' contact details with any other organisation. All Phab's systems and policies are fully compliant with our statutory obligations and are under constant review. Our Safeguarding Policies were recently highly commended by an independent expert in Child Protection.

I have much pleasure in enclosing a copy of our Review of Activities for 2015, containing a summary of Phab's most recent accounts, which I trust you will find both interesting and informative.

John B W Corless OBE  
***Chairman & Vice President***