

# FESTIVAL 2022 IMPACT REPORT



**1,426**  
participants

## THE NUMBERS

Over **1,400 people** took part in Limmud Festival 2022. 85% of them returned to us after missing out in the past couple of years and **200 new people** engaged with Limmud for the first time. We **sold out** of residential places and were reminded how much the community needed Limmud Festival following the pandemic.

**93%**  
would recommend  
Limmud Festival  
to others

Festival was gloriously intergenerational with the youngest participant aged just **4 months old** and our eldest participant being **101 years old!** Our eldest volunteer, joining the baby listening team, was aged 86. Our largest demographic was **in their 20s** and, compared to 2021, the Festival had a more balanced age range of attendees.

**72**  
participants on the  
Young Leadership  
Programme

In a world that often seems divisive and lonely, 88% of participants felt **part of a Limmud community** and 77% of volunteers connected with **new people**.

We're thrilled, as ever, that participants enjoyed Festival – 84% said they **would attend next year** and 93% would recommend Festival to others and deepen our impact further.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

**30,000 hours** of volunteering went into Limmud Festival this year. Behind most of those hours was a brilliant steering team unified around a desire to bring Limmud Festival back in-person. Over **250 volunteers** contributed their time through the Festival Maker scheme this year and ensured the event was a huge success. 93% of volunteers would recommend the scheme to others. This will no doubt have ripple effects on the community volunteer landscape.



*"I loved my volunteering role, I felt very supported and met some lovely people."*  
**Festival participant, aged 29**



**300+**

participants received  
financial assistance  
thanks to you

## AFFORDABILITY

Thanks to your support of our Causematch fundraising campaign in October, more than 300 people were able to benefit from volunteer discounts and financial assistance, enabling them to take part in Limmud Festival when they otherwise may not have been able to afford to.

## THE PROGRAMME

The Limmud Festival programme was beautifully summed up by one participant in the evaluation survey:

*"I enjoyed how it really felt like a safe space where you could be who you wanted to be in a full and authentic way. I feel that Limmud brought out the best in people and overall, it was a joyous experience. There was something for everyone and every mood whether you wanted something participatory, text-heavy, dancing, singing or something more chill. My favourite part of it was the community feel and multi-denominational space, Limmud was honestly my best Jewish experience yet."*

**Sophie Levy, aged 21**



The programme of more than 650 sessions offered a huge variety of learning topics delivered by 350+ presenters, ranging from world-renowned educators and performers to those presenting for the first time, embodying Limmud's value that "everyone should be a student, and anyone can be a teacher." Participants celebrated Chanukah together as a community, delved into inspiring and problematic Jewish texts, foraged for mushrooms and took their pick of meditation, stand-up comedy, chanting, Israeli dance, debate on contemporary issues facing the Jewish world and so much more.





## FAMILIES + YOUNG AND TEEN LIMMUD

*“A really amazing experience was had by both my kids. My big boy said that Limmud was the highlight of his whole year.”*

**Festival participant, aged 35**

We sold out of our families and teen offering this year and brought families into one central space at the Hilton which improved the experience of parents and heightened the intergenerational atmosphere. We were delighted that 95% of parents found Festival to be family friendly and the family programme was thought to be good or very good by 80% of its participants.



## YOUNG LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

We brought **72 young leaders** from across the UK to Limmud Festival this year. This group was made up of many newcomers and a handful of young people who have attended Limmud since childhood. They took part in a tailored programme over Festival that supported them to connect with each other and imagine how they can apply their passion to positively impact the Jewish community. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response and for many of them, this programme reintroduced them to the Jewish community in a way that felt empowering. 83% are interested in volunteering for Limmud in the future and over half of them feel inspired to become more involved in the community beyond Limmud.

*“It was phenomenal and truly changed my life...As a result, I'd like to continue attending Limmud and volunteering.”*

**Shahar Dagan, aged 20**

*“The programme itself was amazing, and hugely empowering. The sessions were brilliantly led and so thoughtfully planned. I found it inspiring, challenging and stimulating. I am leaving feeling more confident in my hopes to create safe, inclusive, intimate spaces.”*

**Young Leadership Programme participant, aged 21**





## WHAT THE PRESS HAD TO SAY

*“Some wondered if the festival would be the same after the pandemic – but organisers have pulled it off”*

**Simon Rocker, The Jewish Chronicle**

**Limmud is back with a buzz**

*“Limmud Festival has just finished, the first in person since 2019, and it was a triumph.”*

**Robin Moss, Jewish News**

**OPINION: Welcome back to an intense learning environment that’s nothing like school**

*“I think of it, as well, as a timely and much-needed antidote to communal pessimism. That’s because for five mostly rainy days at year’s end, the participants of all ages, interests, backgrounds and beliefs who gathered to engage with and learn from each other as equals were sharing a sense of Jewish mission.”*

**Gary Rosenblatt**

**British Jewry’s Unique Treasure Can Be Found In Birmingham**

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for partnering with Limmud this year and supporting Festival 2022 to succeed.

This report reflects the real-life impact you have made with your contributions, and we are deeply appreciative of your support in making Limmud Festival a reality.

Work is already underway to produce Festival 2023 and we hope to see you there!

