

LANCASTER MEN'S HUB NEWSLETTER



Registered Charity No.1196670.
Issue 37 April 2026

Scotforth Paul's School

Lancaster Men's Hub has recently made and installed a

number of raised beds in the grounds of Saint Paul's School on Scotforth Road. The beds, which have been



installed both in the garden and in the playground, were made from sleepers, and installed over a period of two



weekends by members of the Hub. The planters will be a real feature for the future in the school, and the Workshop has received a kind letter of appreciation from the Headteacher saying how important this will be for the pupils and staff of the school in the

years to come. Congratulations to all the members who gave so much time and effort for this worthwhile project.

Financing LMH

Lancaster Men's Hub has always believed that what it does for its members should be provided without charge. We have maintained this approach throughout the five years we have been in existence and there are no plans to change, but we feel that members should be aware of what this means. There are three main sources of funds that finance our activities.

Grants from charities and external organisations.

These can be substantial sums or smaller grants but each one has to be applied for, which takes a tremendous amount of time and effort, and are often granted for very specific purposes.

Sales of manufactured goods and fees for work carried out by Hub members.

This income is increasing as we produce more and better artefacts but it is not a replacement for the grants we need to fund major expenses like rent and is not a guaranteed income stream.

Donations from individuals and organisations.

The donations made regularly by members using the services and one-off donations from well-wishers are a vital source of income to maintain individual projects like Elevenes and the Games Nights. You can **HELP LMH**, if you can afford it, by:

1. At all our free activities we are only too pleased to receive **donations by cash or card**.
2. By setting up a **Standing Order** giving us a set amount per month.
3. By agreeing to let us claim **Gift Aid** on your donations – this assumes you pay Income Tax which exceeds the amount we can claim on your donations.
4. By using the **EasyFundRaising** service. Over 8000 retailers donate a %age of your purchase to your chosen charity, LMH, at no extra cost to you. Download the **EasyFundRaising app** on your mobile or Tablet or by visiting the **EasyFundRaising website** and choosing the retailer you want to buy from.
5. Use the **Justgiving service** to donate.
6. **Help in the Workshop or Studio** to renovate, use your crafting/painting skills to make things we can sell – this raised over £7k last year.



There has been a big change in the composition of the trustees who manage Lancaster Men's Hub, so we are publishing a short pen-portrait of three of the current trustees in each of the next two issues.



Mark Reynolds

Mark came to LMH from a career in education in both the primary and secondary sectors, teaching Art, Craft and Design as well as working in educational management and welfare. He is interested in trains and railways and writes regularly for the 'Railway Magazine'. Mark is a founder member and President of the Gregson Cricket Club, for whom he now umpires, and is member of the Cornerstone Music Cafe team. Mark is the Chair of LMH.



Jim Needham

Jim was born in Oldham in 1940 and moved to Lancaster in 1978. He left school at 15 and embarked on a varied career including an apprenticeship with a local plumber, bus conductor and driver for Oldham Corporation, Maintenance Manager of a publishing house and running a DIY shop in Lancaster. As if this were not enough, he has also been a part-time fireman, a taxi driver, a lay minister and a Tertiary Franciscan Brother. Jim is a member of St Thomas' Church and uses his unique experience in the role of Manager of the LMH Studio and membership of the Workshop Committee.



Chris Englefield

Chris retired as a senior manager and technical specialist from a post in which he was able combine technical expertise with experience and management of charity work. He was a founder member of LMH and has made major contributions to its management and development. Chris' main interest outside the Hub is 'playing with boats' and he has set up a Nautical Group at LMH which reflects his interest in sailing and all things connected with it.

Links with Grange-over-Sands

We were visited recently by Glynn Jones, a trustee of Grange-over-Sands Men's Shed. He



was keen to see how LMH works and we were pleased to host him. He attended Elevenses at The

Cornerstone and spoke with trustees including Mark Reynolds (our Chair), Ian Lyons, Chris Englefield and Jim Needham. He then visited The Studio and was further hosted at The Workshop by Dave Sherrington. Glynn enjoyed his visit, and we look forward to a closer relationship with our colleagues in Grange.

More information on Grange Shed can be found at <https://www.grange-mens-shed.co.uk>

Community Links

Lancaster Men's Hub is always looking to improve its relationships with the community and the photographs below show a number of our recent activities including a visit by Rachel from Virgin Money, our participation in the Cumbria School's Technology Competition, for which we manufactured the test equipment, an exhibition of an art installation by Helen Price focused on the effects of the war in the Middle East and our ongoing relationship with the Coop.

