

# LANCASTER MEN'S HUB NEWSLETTER



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It seems a while since the last Lancaster Men's Hub newsletter came out but August is a month when holidays take place and many of our members and guests have been away. However, the Hub's activities have carried on and even expanded, giving new participants the opportunity to take part in the enjoyment and the organisation of events. This newsletter will be devoted to some of the new and continuing activities that have taken place over the summer, including bowls, gardening, walking football and woodwork. Alongside all of this the regular Friday Elevenes have continued to provide guests with an opportunity to get together, socialise and enjoy some varied and interesting lunches. Although we are still looking for those elusive premises in which to run workshop and other activities, we look forward to increased participation in what the Hub can offer and a continued expansion of our programme in the Autumn.

## Crown Green Bowling

When first announced at Friday Elevenes, Crown Green Bowling seemed to generate little interest, but we have now played for seven evenings and the attendance has been great, with 7-10

members turning up, occasionally followed by an hour socialising in a local pub! Bowls were very kindly loaned to us for the summer by the Boys' Grammar School and we first turned on the 23 June on a lovely summer's evening.

After a quick introduction to the game, and some of the wonderful expressions used in the game like 'crown', 'finger peg', 'bias', 'jack high' and 'jack



up', members were soon launching their bowls towards the other side of the green. We have been lucky enough to play on some of the best greens around at Highfield, on both the Bowling Green Bowling Club's green and the Parkside Club's green, a little smaller and faster than the other. We now have many 'hustlers' including Jarrod and Chris R, who both have an uncanny ability to end up nestling next to the jack. We've had a number of players try it out,

including one lady bowler, and most are now regulars with one having bought their own bowls and another saying how 'enjoyable and relaxing it is'. We had a couple of downpours during the evenings, but this hasn't put members off and we've sat and had

tea/coffee during the rain, admiring the wonderful views of the Lakes. The Hub has now bought some bowls and we intend to keep the experience going throughout autumn. Why not come along and have a go yourself – no experience required!



### Answers to last month's brainteaser.

They all have names with royal connections

Dumfries' football club is Queen of the South. Crewe Alexandra, named for Queen Victoria's daughter-in-law, play at the Mornflake Stadium. 'Real' is the Spanish for 'Royal' and Queen's Park Rangers are the club based in Shepherd's Bush, West London.

**Don't forget that we have Elevenes every Friday from 11.00 pm at the Cornerstone on Sulyard Street. Free coffee social drop-in. Everyone is welcome.**

# Making Mary's Garden Plinth

*A personal account by John Wood*

Following a request for help from Mary, Ken and I made a preliminary visit to see what we could make to hide a 6 foot by 4 foot concrete base with a large manhole cover in its middle. As it was going to be a step up onto the decking boards, we were concerned to make

sure you could not trap your toes under the edge. Having worked our various options with different board widths and thicknesses Mary settled on the Premium decking boards from Wickes. Now Wickes don't have a cutting service, but they do have a carpark that tends to puddle well



in a tropical rainstorm, so we cut up the 3.6 metre lengths and put them in Ken's trailer, which was fast becoming a spa pool. A few days later I started a vertical assembly at home, roped to a handrail in the garden (the boards you understand not myself.) Ken came around on the day we laid it flat, and we cut the semi-circular profile using my router on a 3 foot length of wood.

This thing was heavy and not something two elderly gentlemen should carry far, so I put temporary timbers underneath and split it into 3 parts. It then was easy to use my folding festival cart, and our arrival at Mary's was like the fairground coming to town. Mary lives in a bungalow that has no access for a vehicle, but finally, on a beautiful sunny morning, we reassembled the plinth and laid it down over the concrete with the manhole now neatly obscured. It didn't rock so that was an instant plus, and Mary would soon have some plant pots installed to help it settle in.

## Ambleside Allotments

The three raised beds that Lancaster Men's Hub are working on the Ambleside Road allotments are providing an excellent opportunity for members to get together and work at producing something that is of interest to everyone, particularly the cooks at the regular Friday Elevenses! There has not been a huge amount of produce this year,

since the Hub only took over in Spring but the project is full of potential for next year and is meeting the core aim of the Hub by providing supportive and worthwhile social activity. We were delighted to host Ronnie Blackwell, Chair of Ambleside Allotments, for lunch at one of our recent Elevenses sessions at the Cornerstone. Ronnie has encouraged the start of our allotment activities and freely gives us advice and support, despite her busy role as Chair. She is pictured here with the LMH Chair of Trustees, David Mace.

## Elevenses

Although attendances have been down slightly over the holiday period, the regular Elevenses continues to be the key event in Lancaster Men's



Hub's programme. The number of chefs and helpers, all taking or holding Kitchen Hygiene Certificates, has increased and the range of lunch dishes has expanded to include everything from Ethiopian dishes to Exotic Spud Pie! Elevenses is the event in which all members and guests can get together, attend interesting talks, meet new people and learn about the events and activities that are on offer. Come and join us any Friday in the Cornerstone at 11.00 am.

## Benches for Bowling

David Smith has started a project to renovate ten benches for the Highfield Bowling Club, and the first has



rolled off his production line, looking extremely professional and a credit to David and to the Hub. It's the ability to produce such projects that makes it so vital that we acquire a suitable

workshop premises as soon as possible, so we can continue to produce objects like this.

Here's this month's brainteaser; feel free to use whatever sources you need to work out the answer. The first correct answer randomly selected will have the privilege of setting next month's brainteaser.

**Use the three cryptic clues below to identify a location in Lancaster. To find the location you will need to use the what3words app to enter the answers.**

- 1. Lowest rank takes endless stringed instrument in secret (9)**
- 2. Object found in north in gridlock (5)**
- 3. Messed-up last lob gives you choices (7)**

Answers, with reasons, to John on [johnstrivens@hotmail.com](mailto:johnstrivens@hotmail.com) by 10 September