



## ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2022

### General

Until October 2022, LATH continued their delivery service for food and other items required by homeless and disadvantaged people. On 18<sup>th</sup> October, we finally opened our drop-in at St Mary's Caritas Centre, and we were very pleased to have 15 clients attending on the first day. The new centre is a very good facility, with a great kitchen, a large community room, and a separate smaller meeting room for confidential discussions. There is a disabled toilet with a shower, and three other toilets.

### How We Help Our Clients

Under the guidance of Frank Lepisz, we are continuing to collect surplus food from Greggs and Co-operative stores, for use at the centre. Clients often take any surplus food home, and very little is wasted. We have designed a takeaway leaflet showing all the local drop-ins where clients can get food during the week, with a map on the back.

In December 2022, we started a collaboration, supported by a grant from Bentley's, with Pathways CIC to provide social prescribing to our clients. Pathways CIC is a social enterprise that delivers a range of pioneering health, work and wellbeing programmes designed to create sustainable change for individuals and for local communities, with a focus on enabling people to live happier and healthier lives. One of our clients has already benefitted from this service.

A qualified barber/hairdresser has started to attend on Tuesdays to give haircuts and beard trims to clients, which were much appreciated.

We have assisted one of our clients financially to replace a lost passport and with travel costs to Manchester. We have attended a GPO visit with one of our clients who did not feel able to attend alone.

Our Polish speaker, Frank, has assisted numerous clients with benefit, tax and housing queries and forms.

We have delivered donated baby items to Motherwell and have helped several clients moving into their own accommodation from hostels or rough sleeping with household items and bedding, liaising with Hazel Faddes (Crewe Councillor) over their needs. We have made furniture referrals to St Paul's. We have provided several rough sleepers with sleeping bags, clothing and tents.

Given the success of last year's hamper project, the Trustees decided to provide Christmas hampers to needy families again. The volunteer subgroup assembled (Joan Walton and Pauline Kowlaski), and worked with Morrison's to provide a hamper containing festive treats worth about £35 to 150 to families identified by schools and the lone parent charity CLASP. Morrison's kindly gave us a discount which allowed us to help more families. Many thanks particularly to Joan for her liaison with Morrison's in the run-up to Christmas, and to Joan, Joan's friend and Pauline for assembly and distribution of the hampers. Again, they were much appreciated, and we hope went some way to provide some festive cheer to struggling families.

### Our Trustees/Executives



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Our President Bernard Potter has continued to act as temporary Chair, due to John McManus' illness. John has also provided guidance and support where possible.

There have been no other changes in our Trustees or Executive Committee members, who have all been re-elected for 2023.

### Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers for their support and encouragement during the year, and special thanks go to the volunteers who have helped with various projects.

Many thanks to our Treasurer Pat Gardner who has kept our finances in order splendidly, and special thanks to Joan Walton and Pauline Kowalski, who co-ordinated the Christmas hamper donations. Thanks to Barbara Francis, our Secretary, for coordinating a wide range of activities in addition to her secretarial duties.

### APPLICATIONS FROM NEW VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE VERY WELCOME!

### Premises

The new premises are working well, and we are liaising with the centre manager, Becky Hurst, to finalise some snagging items.

We have been using the garage store extensively during the year, and have had the guttering replaced to help with reducing the leaks and damp inside. Various items are now stored there and are used as necessary for vulnerable clients.

### Assistance Received

We had a very successful Autumn Concert in October 2022, which was of very high quality and enjoyed by all. Ticket sales for this event swelled our coffers by more than £1000.

We also had an awareness day at Sainsbury's in November, and a collection boosted funds a little. Our collection boxes situated in various retail outlets continue to provide much needed funds.

### Friends, Members, and Supporters

Now is a good time to acknowledge the invaluable steady income stream arising from our Friends/Members – much of it being gift-aided.

New Friends of LATH are always welcome, either just by making regular donations, or joining our team of volunteers.

### Thank you all so much!

### Finally...

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us on our Facebook page or at [lathsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lathsecretary@gmail.com), or by contacting Bernard via Helena or in person. Your participation in these matters is highly valued.

**Once again, thank you all for your continued support, and we wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.**

**Bernard Potter** **President and Acting Chairman**



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