



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/01/2024 Period start date To 31/12/2024

Period end date

Charity name: Letchworth Men in Sheds

Charity registration number: 1188445

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Men in Sheds are community spaces for men to connect, converse and create. Our Letchworth Shed aims to reduce loneliness and isolation for primarily older and often retired men by developing that sense of personal identity, and purpose and restoring the camaraderie which is so often lost after retirement.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>We have been in our Men's Shed workshop now for more than two years, successfully making our premises habitable, moving in donated machinery and purchasing new as needed with the support of community groups and successful grant applications.</p> <p>We take on many routine jobs in our visitor Farm location en-lieu of rent and electricity payments and according to our license to occupy contract. In one or two cases – particularly supporting the farms new October Pumpkin Event – these have been quite challenging and required a great deal of engagement and co-operation from all our members over a sustained period. Everyone benefitted and shared a sense of purpose.</p> <p>We have undertaken community projects outside of our Farm location, both as sources of income and for the community good. These include making a play mud kitchen for a local pre-school, a donation food bank for a local primary school, refurbishment of the local bowls club benches and a significant number of made-to-order Swift bird boxes for a nearby residential action group. Towards the end of 2024 we undertook to refurbish a local community garden space – a sizable project that will run well into 2025.</p> <p>Also in 2024 we entered into a co-operative arrangement with an experience and dedicated wood turning group whereby they will use our facilities on an unused day in return for tutoring any of our members in safe lathe wood turning. This has proved very popular for novices to</p>

		<p>achieve a high standard of proficiency. The skills learnt have given purpose and supported wellbeing.</p> <p>These activities support our aim to reduce loneliness and isolation by providing a place to meet up with and engage with others whilst focusing on common purposes.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>We began this 2024 year with three trustees. At our AGM in March we voted in a fourth member and trustee in order to ensure continuity beyond the minimum of three as required by our constitution.</p> <p>We continue to operate in our charities best interests and manage its resources with care and to the best of our ability.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Our membership continues to grow, with many who have been meeting with us for more than 3 years and in some cases, 4 and more years.</p> <p>Currently we have around 35 members and continue to attract interest from mainly retired men who are keen to join us for camaraderie and to be involved in something that gives purpose and gives back to the community.</p> <p>We hold regular Tuesday and Friday Men's Shed sessions as well as a Thursday specific wood turning session that are well attended by many members.</p> <p>Grants that we obtained in 2022 continued to be spent through 2024 on essentials.</p> <p>Through 2024 we have been quite successful in raising our own funds through the sale of items made, commission taken and two rather successful main events – a Steam and Country Show and Christmas Fair. These were both entirely supported and managed by our own volunteer members</p> <p>The regular sessions we hold and workshop activities we undertake substantially meet our charity objectives of fighting social isolation and loneliness, as well as bringing people together in common purpose.</p> <p>This year, for the first time, we entered an event organised by the UK Men's Sheds Association to be Shed of the Year in the Partnership category. In this, we named the Letchworth Garden Heritage Foundation as our partner. We were pleased to have the support of the Heritage Foundation and were proud to achieve a runner up award and visit to the Houses of Parliament to receive the award. Following on, we successfully held an event to celebrate our success for members, partners, Heritage partners and local councillors.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>We did receive a two grants in 2024. One from the North Herts Community Forum towards essential safety equipment / small workshop tools and another from Hertfordshire County Council towards First Aid training.</p> <p>We have continued to spend residual grants from the Co-op and Hertfordshire Community Foundation towards essential equipment and ancillaries.</p> <p>At the beginning of 2024 our funds were £2,638 and at the end of 2024 our funds were £2,984, which includes member subscriptions, donations from individuals as well as donations made to us by way of items made to order.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We do not have a policy for holding reserves. We have underspent on grants received
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Cash currently in our community bank account is £2675
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<p>We occupy our premises by way of an agreement called a License to Occupy (LTO) from the owner of the Farm in which we reside. The owner is The Letchworth Garden Heritage Foundation. We know that they have been working on a revised LTO since November 2023. We do not know yet if the terms of our occupation will change. We had uncertainty in 2023 and this continued through 2024, despite our requests for clarity.</p> <p>We do have a very good relationship with our immediate contacts both on the Farm and in the ownership umbrella of the Letchworth Garden Heritage Foundation. We expect these good</p>

		relations stand us in good stead as regards our occupation of premises on the Farm.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our principal sources of funding have been two small grants from Hertfordshire County, though more significant has our own fundraising been with events in the summer and Christmas.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	n/a
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>We began 2023 with a minimum three trustees and gained a fourth during the year. The untimely death of one trustee leaves us again with a minimum. We will look to take on another trustee from the membership.</p> <p>Space to operate our workshop is at a premium. We have approached the owners of the farm but have not been successful in acquiring more space. We will look to open more sessions on other days of the week to spread the member load.</p>
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		We have no trusts
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	All our trustees are volunteers, elected from and by our membership, in line with our CIO Constitution

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
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The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Letchworth Men in Sheds
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1188445
Charity's principal address	c/o 1, Milestone Close, Stevenage, Hertfordshire
Postcode	SG2 9RR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Hill	chair		The membership
2	Neill Withington	treasurer		The membership
3	Chris Lee	membership		The membership
4	Nicola Withington		01/04/24 to 31/12/24	The membership
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		


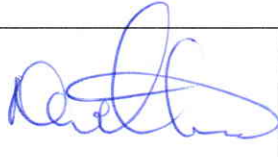

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed by a majority of the charity's trustees

Signatures			
Full Names	Peter Michael Hill	Neill Withington	John Christopher Lee
Position	Chair	Treasurer	Membership
Date	21/3/25	21/3/25	8/4/25



Member

Letchworth Men in Sheds

1188445

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date

01/01/2024

To

Period end date

31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

Receipts

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Membership fees	389.80	0.00	389.80	216
Donations	306.37	0.00	306.37	169
Grants	0.00	996.00	996.00	0
Sales / event income	1,819.63	0.00	1,819.63	460
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Other	59.00	0.00	59.00	10
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,574.80	996.00	3,570.80	855

Asset and investment sales

Sale of assets	68.08	0.00	68.08	80.00
Sale of investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub total	68.08	0.00	68.08	80.00

Total receipts

2,642.88	996.00	3,638.88	934.79
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Payments

Shed premises costs	78.21	0.00	78.21	3,028.92
Insurance	528.56	0.00	528.56	441.60
Materials & consumables	505.81	0.00	505.81	1,112.91
Small tools (<£25)	497.47	0.00	497.47	581.32
Repairs and renewals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Refreshments & cleaning	0.00	0.00	0.00	446.24
Admin/Office costs	169.99	0.00	169.99	10.00
Subscriptions	20.39	0.00	20.39	19.19
Sundry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	169.60	0.00	169.60	0.00
Sub total	1,970.03	0.00	1,970.03	5,640.18

Asset and investment purchases

Hand and power Tools (>£25)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Workshop machines	1,349.70	0.00	1,349.70	2,164.92
Sub total	1,349.70	0.00	1,349.70	2,164.92

Total payments

3,319.73	0.00	3,319.73	7,805.10
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Net of receipts/(payments)

-676.85	996.00	319.15	-6,870.31
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Transfers between funds

0.00	0.00		
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Cash funds last year end

2,675.06	0.00	2,675.06	9,545.37
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Cash funds this year end

1,998.21	996.00	2,994.21	2,675.06
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Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current Period to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Cash funds				
Coop account	1,998.21	996.00	2,994.21	2,638.56
Barclays account	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.50

