



Welcome to the April 2026 edition of the LASSN Members' Newsletter.

As a member, you're part of the network that keeps LASSN moving—supporting people, sharing knowledge, and making Leeds a more welcoming place in practical, everyday ways.

This is a year where we're making decisions about what LASSN can afford to keep doing - and what we can't. This newsletter gives you a clearer view of what's changing, where we need extra hands, and how your involvement—time, skills, or insight—helps things work in practice.

We're always refining this. If something lands well, or misses the mark, let us know: admin@lassn.org.uk.

—The LASSN Team

Find out more



What's actually happening at LASSN (beyond the headlines)

If you only see LASSN through newsletters like this, you're only scratching the surface.

The **News section on our website** is where the detail lives—the moments, the thinking, and the bits that don't always fit into updates.

<https://lassn.org.uk/news/>

What it looks like in practice

Some of it is very simple:

- [A trip to see Leeds Rhinos at Headingley Stadium](#). Not remarkable on paper - but for people who've been isolated, or unsure where they belong, it's a first step into something shared. That matters.
 - Or [small operational changes to make LASSN more sustainable](#)—printing less, travelling differently, reusing what we already have. Nothing dramatic. But across a volunteer-led organisation, those choices add up.
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Why we do things the way we do

We've also started writing more openly about the *why* behind our work- the thinking behind the help we offer.

- [Why hosting exists](#) when someone has nowhere else to go.
- [Why the houses](#) are about stability, not just a roof.
- [Why Welcome and Connect is built around steady relationships](#), not quick interventions.
- [Why NewToLeeds focuses on information people can actually use](#).
- [Why volunteers have built and shared free teaching resources](#) that now reach far beyond LASSN.

These pieces make that thinking visible.

What we're learning (and changing)

Some articles are more reflective.

- English at Home's final year of Lottery funding, and [what 15 years of that support has made possible—and what needs to change next](#).
 - [New teaching guides](#) shaped by what volunteers are actually encountering week to week.
 - [Work with Pro Bono Economics](#) to understand, in a more concrete way, what donations make possible.
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Why this is worth your time

Taken together, these articles show something you don't always see in summaries:

How the work of LASSN actually holds together.

Where we're working.

Where we're under pressure.

What we're changing.

If you're a member, this is probably the closest view of LASSN you'll get without being in the office.

Please have a look when you get a moment:

<https://lassn.org.uk/news/>



Upcoming events

Youth Anthems #45 – Fundraiser for LASSN

On Sunday 31 May, Youth Anthems are putting on a fundraiser for LASSN at Wharf Chambers (1:30–4pm).

It's the usual format—three live bands, cake, the Wharf bar, and Nicky Bray hosting.

100% of the money raised will go to LASSN.

Tickets are £5 (free for under 18s), with the option to give more if you can. If you can't make it, you can still buy a ticket and pass it on to someone being supported by LASSN.

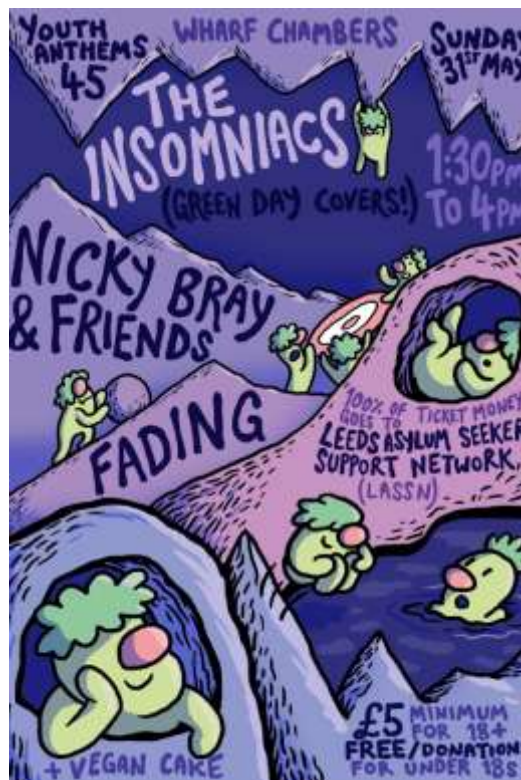
The line-up includes:

- The Insomniacs (Green Day covers—pre-2000)
- Nicky Bray & Friends
- Fading (their first gig)

We'll also have a LASSN stall there, so it's a chance to find out more about the work and how to get involved.

If you're around, come down. If not, it's still a simple way to put something into the pot.

[Buy your tickets here](#) or click on the graphic below



Fundraising

It's been a strong few months for fundraising, with a mix of events, campaigns, and individual efforts making a real difference.

- Our [Big Give match funding campaign](#) (Ramadan / Passover / Easter) has raised over £11,000
- The training for Leeds 10K is well underway, with 10 runners already raising over £1,500 - with a target of £10,000
- [Refujazz](#) raised £900 for the Hardship Fund

Every contribution helps us respond quickly when people need support most.

If you'd like to get involved—whether by fundraising, taking part in an event, or supporting someone who is—you can find ideas and guidance here:

<https://lassn.org.uk/fundraise/>

New Solidarity Badges

We also have some new Solidarity Badges available in our organisational colours. We're asking £5 for all 6 (inc P&P)

Please order them through our Donations Shop <http://lassn.org.uk/shop>.



Governance

Stewardship and decisions for 2026/27

Over the past five years, LASSN has been the fortunate beneficiary of three legacies. Trustees have used this one-off funding carefully: to purchase and run Kay House, to support a part-time communications and fundraising role, and to bridge gaps where grant funding has fallen short.

As we enter 2026/27, that legacy funding has largely been committed. Trustees are now making the decisions needed ensure our projects are the right size and shape to ensure LASSN remains sustainable, long-term.

Securing core projects

English at Home has secured **partial funding for three years** from the National Lottery. After more than 15 years of continuous support, the expectation is now that the project diversifies its funding base. Trustees are working to secure additional income so the project can continue at full capacity.

Welcome and Connect has secured a **12-month extension** through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Department for Work and Pensions. This continues our Trailblazers work with refugees who are *economically inactive*—not in work and not currently job-seeking, often due to barriers such as health, caring responsibilities, confidence, or English—supporting them to move closer to employment.

Housing: focusing where we can sustain impact

Housing remains essential to LASSN's work and carries the largest funding gap, currently around **£80,000**.

Trustees have agreed to **reduce the amount of unfunded housing work**, while protecting support for people who would otherwise have no safe place to stay.

Kay House is now being leased to Abigail Housing, reducing running costs while keeping the property in use. The property will be retained as a long-term asset. At the same time, work is underway to develop a more sustainable housing model, including partnerships with other organisations.

This means focusing support where it has the greatest impact, while reducing activity we cannot fund.

Financial position: adjusting to a new baseline

Legacy funding has enabled flexibility and growth. As that funding reduces, the organisation is adjusting.

The current communications and fundraising post will not continue in its existing form. Future work in this area will be more tightly focused on supporting income generation.

Trustees are prioritising funding for core projects, strengthening financial oversight, and focusing resources where they have the greatest impact.

The position remains tight, but decisions are now aligned with what is sustainable.

Where we work: planning the next move

LASSN will need to move from its current office by June 2026.

Trustees have ruled out options that do not meet accessibility needs and a new location is being identified, with a decision expected shortly.

Can you help with our new office?

As part of this move, we're looking to furnish the space with good-quality second-hand furniture—practical, affordable, and in keeping with how we try to work.

If you, your workplace, or someone you know might be able to help with items like desks, chairs, shelving, or meeting tables, we'd really like to hear from you - especially in the next few weeks.

We're aiming for things that are sturdy, usable, and available in the next few months.

If you have something in mind—or even a lead—please get in touch:
admin@lassn.org.uk

Governance: clearer, more consistent

Trustees have strengthened how governance works in practice:

- Risk is now tracked through a single framework used at each Board meeting
 - Trustee training and induction are being refreshed
 - Board meetings now include structured feedback to improve focus and decision-making
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Looking ahead

The priorities for the year ahead are clear:

- Secure long-term funding for housing
 - Confirm a new office base
 - Grow volunteer capacity where projects are expanding
 - Build a more diverse and resilient Board
 - Continue strengthening the organisation's funding mix
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Thank you for being part of LASSN.

These decisions are about ensuring the work you're part of can continue, reliably and sustainably.



Volunteering

JOIN TRUSTEE

Trustee changes and recruitment

Several trustees have stepped down after serving two three-year stints on the Board and we're trying to recruit their replacements.

We are particularly keen to hear from LASSN members who may be interested in joining the Board particularly those with experience in **legal, digital, marketing, or financial roles**.

These skills will help strengthen the Board as we navigate the next phase of LASSN's development.

We are also committed to building a Board that reflects the communities LASSN works with, including increasing lived experience representation.

If you're interested—or simply curious—we'd be very happy to talk it through. For an informal chat, contact jon@lassn.org.uk and or [read our recruitment pack](#).

Campaigning



New thinking on cohesion – and where LASSN fits

The Government has recently published a new cohesion strategy, [Protecting What Matters](#). It's a substantial document, but its analysis of the pressures facing communities is clear—and at times uncomfortable. You may not agree with all the proposed solutions, but the diagnosis is hard to ignore.

Closer to home, [Leeds is about to launch its own cohesion strategy](#). It picks up many of the same themes, but from a more local, relationship-focused perspective rather than a national security lens.

There are strong overlaps with the way LASSN works—particularly around connection, trust, and how communities support each other in practice. Some of this thinking has been shaped by what's happening on the ground here in Leeds.

If you want a quick way in, we've put together a [20-minute audio overview](#) comparing the two approaches. If you want to go deeper, there's also a [longer 45-minute version](#) focused just on *Protecting What Matters*.

This kind of thinking will shape policy and funding over the next few years, so it's useful context for understanding where LASSN sits—and where things might be heading.

**If what you've read makes
you want to give...**

If you've enjoyed what you read and want to help LASSN be more sustainable, please consider making a donation, large or small. Your donations truly make a significant impact.



And if you can't afford to give - please think about something else you can do for LASSN - recommend a trade or business to us, or support a campaign for change.

What we achieve, we achieve together and your support is always welcome - whatever form it takes.

Thank you from everyone at LASSN