



A friendly workshop where men can gather, work together, share skills and knowledge or just have a chat over coffee.

August has provided a sense of normality returning and a welcome reminder that our Shed is primarily a social space. There's always plenty of making and mending to be done but popping in for tea and a chat is just as important. Just as welcome is the return of 'customers' calling to ask about something bespoke for their garden, a bit of welding they need doing or some tools they need sharpening. Sustainability is a focus for this month's Parish News and some recent work neatly illustrates some of the decisions and dilemmas we face here.

An armful of garden tools in need of TLC were dropped-off recently and these included a hoe and various garden shears. The hoe appeared to be a hefty item worthy of the blacksmith's forge but the hand-forged look proved purely cosmetic and was achieved by thick plastic coating over thin steel components. Removing the plastic was a bit tedious but it did allow sharpening to go ahead. Similar dastardly (?) tricks had been used on the shears. Narrow, low-friction blades made them light and easy to use but the cutting edges were now dull and the slippery plastic coating had started to wear away. What to do? If time and effort were to be factored-in then replacement would be the sensible option – but is this sustainable? It would be all too easy to grumble on about 'the good old days' but I'm not sure things are that simple. The fact remains that both the hoe and the shears doubtless worked beautifully when new, were affordable and have earned their keep for a while.

Luckily we don't have to be quite so analytical at the Shed but it's always good to have a topic for discussion when supping tea and getting satisfaction from mending stuff that was designed not to be mended!

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Tuesday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 – 4:00 at Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate. [www.MeninShedsWinslow.org.uk](http://www.MeninShedsWinslow.org.uk)**

**Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164**