

April 2017

Welcome to our new Newsletter

We are planning on informing our 'Shedders' of what is happening in, to and around our 'Shed'. We appreciate that not everyone can come regularly but we feel that you should be informed of what is going on.

Buckinghamshire Shedders Meeting – 21st March



Our Shed was the venue for the second meeting of the 'Buckinghamshire Shedders' group. This will be regular coming together of representatives from Sheds around the County. It is an initiative led by the Buckinghamshire County Council as part of their 'Prevention Matters' initiative. The first meeting was in Wycombe and we were proud to be able to host this one. Around 30 people attended with representatives from West Bletchley Shed, Buckingham Shed, Amersham Shed and Wycombe Shed. We were able to feed them thanks to a generous donation from Tesco Buckingham via their Community Champion.

As part of the meeting Graham White the Community Links Officer of 'Prevention Matters' gave a very informative talk on Dementia so we might understand the truths and misunderstandings connected with this disease. It certainly opened up my eyes to the problems associated with Dementia but it is something we will embrace in making our Shed 'Dementia Friendly'.

The next meeting will be scheduled in a few months time and we encourage others attend as we develop stronger relationships with other local 'Sheds'.

Shed Update

Ironically on the day of the above Meeting our site and confidence was disrupted with the excavation of large holes to undertake soak-away tests for the pending development. It was indeed a timely reminder that our current facilities are temporary and we do have to consider how we will develop the Shed in the future. Whether the activity sparked it or not is of interest but we were visited by the Developers of the site to inform us that the current timings suggest that we may have around a year before we lose the building. However, they were very keen to point out that they are aware of the activities that we are undertaking and would assist us in our searches for alternative facilities. This is a positive message that allows us to continue forward with our development of the Shed as we attract and seek additional funding and new Members. The Committee is of course aware of the situation and will continue to seek alternative venues and to highlight our plight with influential people.

New Funding

We have been informed that we are going to receive additional funding from the BCC Local Area Fund (LAF). Over £ 1800 has been promised to allow us to purchase a new Router and Table and a centralized Dust Extraction system. When we receive written confirmation we will commence the installation of the Dust Extraction System in a form that we can relocate when we move.

Are you feeling a little 'Potty'?

We are in the final stages of installing a Pottery Kiln that we have been able to purchase at a very reasonable price from a well wisher and we will soon be in a position to undertake pottery firing and if anyone is interested Ali Abidi will be happy to assist you in creating

some very interesting ceramics. Here are examples of his fine works.



What's New?

We have recently purchased a new Table Saw utilising funding from last year's application to the LAF. This is a far more robust and versatile unit and can be folded down for easier positioning in the work area. We have received a donation for the original one that was purchased when we initially set up the Shed last year.



Visit of Bishop of Oxford

We were honoured to receive a visit from the Bishop of Oxford – Rt. Revd. Dr. Steven Croft to our shed last month. He was in town visiting other volunteer groups and he was certainly impressed with our Shed. In fact he wrote in his newsletter *"I'm not really allowed to have favourites as the bishop but if I could pick one project to highlight it would be Men in Sheds Winslow..."*. He is planning to return in June after he commissioned us to make him a 'cross' (not to make him cross!). Tony Watson has completed the task and can be viewed in the Shed.

Vale Lottery

Members may recall that we registered with Aylesbury Vale District Council as a beneficiary from the Vale Lottery. For every £ 1 ticket purchased as a donation to



'Men in Sheds Winslow' we receive 50p with a chance of the ticket holder winning big cash prizes. The tickets have a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize which goes up to £25,000.00 This is a good way of us receiving a regular income if members signed up to a regular payment with the obvious benefits of also winning! Visit the webpage www.valelottery.co.uk to register and search for 'Shed'.

Material Costs

Here is a timely reminder that the following are included in your Annual Membership Fee:

- Contribution to the Insurance of the Shed
- Use of all the facilities
- Contribution to the Electricity costs
- Advice, Helpful (and unhelpful) Banter
- Coffee / Tea - the odd biscuit / cake
- Jokes (good or bad!)

What isn't included:

- Materials for your projects

As a guideline here are some examples of costs for new materials:

- 2"x2" 7 3" x 2" approx. £2.40 per metre
- Feather edge 150 mm wide (6") £1.20 per metre
- Deck board 140x22 mm(53/4"x1") £1.66 per m.

Whereas we are able to obtain some materials from donations or by recycling we do need to be aware that we have to cover the costs of all materials (screws, glue, sanding materials, blades etc.) so please consider these costs that your daily attendance fees (£2) cannot fully cover. Please chat with Dave or Ian to agree a fair contribution for consumables and materials for your personal projects. We don't want to stifle your creativity but we do need to cover Shed overheads.

Upcoming Revenue Projects

We have been commissioned by the 'Swan' at Great Horwood to provide some substantial planters for their premises but we are limiting the number of site visits that are required to complete this project 😊

We have also been commissioned to provide some green oak Picnic Tables for Thornborough Wood.

Both of these projects will provide much needed revenue into the Shed and provide publicity and we seek your assistance with completing either of these projects. Just let Dave or Ian know your availability to help.