

Summer 2018

What have we been up to?

There are well over four hundred 'Men's Sheds' in the UK and the number is growing. Most have - quite literally - a shed of some sort. We are quite unusual (and extremely fortunate) in having a very large Shed indeed in the shape of a redundant industrial unit. It won't be forever but while our luck holds we take full advantage by taking on some quite large projects and are particularly keen when these have a clear community benefit.

Winslow C of E Combined School Planters

When the School requested some giant planters for their sensory garden project, we were delighted to receive a huge consignment of chestnut sleepers from our



neighbours at Site 77. The really hot spell in July had yet to set in, which was just as well since they all had to be hand sawn to size before making up

into kit-form for delivery. We're not really geared-up for site-work so were grateful to Tim at Site 77 and our friends from Winslow Lions who stepped in to do the delivery and assembly work.



Putting them in place in 30°C was a challenge!

Over to you children to do your bit and plant them up.

Tomkins Park & Arboretum Benches

Quite a bit of remedial work was needed when our Town Council took on Tompkins Park and Arboretum to be a community resource. One tree that had to be felled was a large Cedar of Lebanon which was suffering from rot and in a dangerous condition.

The work was expertly carried out by local timber guru, James Betteress, who was able to convert the main trunk on-site and salvage what was hoped would be sufficient timber for some tables and benches to go back into the Park. Two years on and the timber was sufficiently seasoned for work to commence. We were delighted when our Town Council invited us to submit some ideas and very pleased to be able to supply three tables and six benches and it is hoped that installation work will be carried out over the summer. Our principal design aim was to create park furniture that would be elegant yet sturdy enough to survive the worst of the weather and the most (shall we say?) enthusiastic use by the public. When you get to see them, we hope you'll agree that - at the very least - these fellas are not going to blow away.



New Funding

We've been lucky to receive funding and use self-generated funds from projects to upgrade our tools and equipment over the last year or so.

Some of our 'hobby'-rated power tools have been supplemented with professional items more suited to the scale of project we have lately been asked to do. We are thankful to Winslow Town Council for a further grant of £ 500 and significant funding has been given via Jan Roffe, Grants and Voluntary Sector Support Officer, at Aylesbury Vale District Council, the money came from the 'New Homes Bonus' Micro Grant Funding Scheme and has purchased additional equipment in the form of a new Router with Table and Bobbin Sander.



Although wood working tends to be our stock trade, we've now got Arc and MIG welding equipment and have recently invested in a small centre lathe. So far, our engineering work has been about fettling and mending but if

anyone has a yen for something more adventurous then we now have the technology!

Co Op Funding

'Men In Sheds Winslow' has been selected for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round started on 12 November 2017 and runs for 11 months until the 27 October 2018.



Every time Co-op members shop at the Co-op, 1% of what they spend on selected own-brand products and services goes to the Co-op Local Community Fund.

So far we have received just over £ 380. Thank you!

Membership

Membership continues to grow and currently stands at over fifty and prospective new members are always welcome - just pop in. If you fancy it, you'll get roped-in to help out with a project, maybe get some space and advice for a project of your own and definitely find yourself with a cuppa and some friendly company. We

keep pretty busy but one thing is clear, The Shed isn't 'Work' - members are free to get involved with as much or as little as they like and tea breaks are plentiful and untimed (but you may have to negotiate holidays!!)

Planters planned

Most Sheddors would say 'make do and mend' or 'waste not, want not' rather than 'eco-friendly' but they mean much the same thing and making good use of resources is something that's in our bones.

We're lucky to get old pallets and secondhand timber donated and would tend to use this material where aesthetics are not that important - compost bins spring to mind.

But why not celebrate recycling in the things we make? This planter has been made from pallet wood and old floorboards - the timber has been cleaned-up enough to show we respect the value of the material



but no attempt has been made to hide old nail holes or residual paint. Just an idea at the moment but plans have been drawn-up and variations on this theme may become a 'stock-item' for us in the future. Interested in one (or two)? Then let us know.

Sawdust Burner

With all the projects going on, we generate quite a lot of scraps and sawdust which can prove a headache to dispose of properly. There were times last winter when the large 'warehouse' part of our Shed was just too cold to use so, prompted by this, we have just invested in a large ex-industry sawdust-burning stove. With any luck, we'll be able to kill two birds with this one stone and reduce our energy bills to boot.

Winslow Men in Sheds at the Winslow Show

Don't forget to visit us at the Winslow Show.

If you think you can bang a nail in straight then come and give it a go!

**The Shed is currently open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am – 4:00pm.
Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate
Visit www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk**