

MSH Newsletter Spring 2024



Chairman's Report

Life is full of Ups and Downs and at times it's difficult to predict what is going to happen next!

Those that have read previous Newsletters will be very much aware that MSH have been, for the last two years negotiating with Horsham Council over the occupancy of the Artist's Studio located at Chesworth Farm. Although MSH was originally approached by Horsham Council to see if we were interested in occupying the premises, and despite much work, we received an email from the Council in March stating that they were withdrawing their offer due to the possible noise effects on neighbours.

The news came out of the blue and was not expected. Having given much thought to the situation, we decided not to appeal against the decision but expressed our disappointment in writing to members and officers of HDC.

Despite the setback MSH is determined to obtain additional premises to enable it to expand its activities as the current premises in Dukes Square is at capacity. The good news is that MSH remains popular; we currently have a waiting list of 10 men who wish to join.

An appeal is being made via the local press to see if there are businesses, organisations or individuals who wish to support MSH and who may have a suitable premises available.

I commend all members for the contribution they have made over the last few months.

Tool Sale

Our latest tool sale was held on 16th March which turned out to be a lovely sunny day! During the morning we saw a number of visitors, not all of them Horsham area residents which all helped to make this another successful event raising over £500 for shed funds. Our thanks go to Chris Avery and his team who worked hard both on the day and leading up to it.



Tools with a Mission - TWAM

In addition to the tool sales Chris arranges for some of the donated tools to go to a charity that sends tools to developing countries, see this extract from their website;

We are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. In doing so, we also support UK communities through volunteering opportunities and contribute significantly to environmental sustainability by reducing waste and carbon emissions in the UK.

For more information visit their website <https://www.twam.uk>

Spare Tools and Wood

If anyone has tools or wood they wish to donate to the Shed, please contact Chris Avery in the first instance to assess their suitability for use or sale to raise funds. Chris has his own Shed email: chrisavery@mensshed-horsham.org.uk or 07974 431194 for more information.

Quiz night at John Lewis



The links with John Lewis remain strong when a team of six gentlemen representing 'the shed' recently took part in a quiz night organised by the store. Throughout the evening a strong performance was maintained with the team coming second only losing by 2 points. Well done to all those taking part for a very strong performance, we look forward to seeing you take first place next time.

Friday Lunchtime Get Together

Shed members continue to meet up on the last Friday of the month at lunchtime in a nearby pub. The March get together was well attended and enjoyed by those who were there. This is an opportunity to find out what is currently happening plus future plans and events as well as meeting up with friends and a chance to make new ones too.



Two More Worthy Projects Completed

As always many of those attending the shed can be found working hard on projects that will benefit the wider community. We are pleased to showcase two more and would take the opportunity to thank those involved.

Bird Boxes



A local scout group – 4th Horsham Scouts have been able to construct some bird boxes from kits that were made by shed members. These will be going to Beacon Hill Scout Campsite and so will be enjoyed by those in the wider scouting

community.

Pollinators

On a similar theme another community project being worked on are pollinators requested by Sussex Green Living. This is what they had to say:



One of our services is the Horsham Repair Cafe which was the first repair cafe in West Sussex, launched in 2017. Since its launch we have mentored about 35 repair cafes and helped inspire and mentor 9 in Horsham District.

As a way of promoting the Horsham District repair cafes, fundraising, increasing biodiversity and providing a herb bed for local residents we are launching a pollinator palace trail. This is a fundraising exercise for our charity too!

Future Events

Plans are under way for some get together in different ways and in different places over the coming months when hopefully we have warmer weather. Please look out for details of these. Of course, there is the regular monthly meet up in a local pub on the last Friday of the month, if you need more details again, please ask.

Messy Church



At a recent event held by St Marks Church Horsham two shed members can be seen helping out those children attending with some woodwork!

WhatsApp – Just a reminder that there is a WhatsApp group which is available for all members, if you haven't yet joined and would like to please let admin know and we will arrange this for you.

Newsletter Sign Up Thank you for reading this newsletter which we hope you have enjoyed. Please sign up to receive future copies via our website www.mens-shed-horsham.org.uk

Facebook Following our request for someone to help out with our facebook page we are delighted to say that shed member John Lewis has kindly come forward and offered his services in maintaining this vital source of publicity and advertising. Our thanks go to John.

Thank You

Recently three shed members, Dave Unsted, Dave Dean and Graham Peters were presented with tankards. This was a thank you for the hard work and effort that these three gentleman put in turning some amazing woodwork items for the sales held to raise funds.



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Spotlight on a Shed Member – Dave Elliott

Hi. I'm David Elliott. Born in 1950 in Springs South Africa. Did normal schooling until I went to the army in 1969 for a year. Then call-up camps for 5 years. During that time I did a five year



apprenticeship as a fitter and turner, achieving my National technological certification in engineering. Upon completion of my training, I met my wife Carol. We had 2 children, Sean and Sarah. I worked in engineering for 17 years gaining experience machining mostly. I also had taken up hang gliding in 1976 and was extremely involved in it, all my spare time actually. In 1979 we came over to the UK with the mind to settle down here. My parents came over to SA from the UK after the war. SA was offering a great deal to skilled workers. They returned and lived in Wiltshire for 2 years. Family pressures caused us to return in

1982. I carried on in engineering, but also with a friend decided and built myself a small microlight aircraft, our own design. One thing led to another and got to the point where I had to decide whether to carry on in a steady job or pursue my dream, which I did. We became very successful and eventually were exporting as well. I eventually sold my shares in the business and retired. No thought of ever moving. In 2021 there was tremendous unrest in SA. Right on our doorstep, shooting of automatic weapons in the street, looting and riots. Right after that, my whole family decided to come to the UK again. My wife and I were the fore guard. We arrived 2 years ago with 3 suitcases to our name. We're now happily settled and enjoying life here. It's so much more peaceful. I just love the Mens Shed and it has given me lots of pleasure and a sense of belonging. Dave can be seen on the left of the photo.

Membership

As mentioned in our winter newsletter due to the ongoing success we have introduced a waiting list for new members. If you or someone you know would like to join please contact admin in the first place, we will then add you and contact you as soon as a place becomes available.

Donations

If you or someone you know like what we are doing and feel you wish to support us in this important work with a one-off donation of any amount or more regularly or perhaps you are part of an organisation that offers grants. Please contact us at admin@mens-shed-horsham.org.uk for ways to achieve this.



You can also support us via the **Horsham District Community lottery** – Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week and at least 60% from each ticket sold goes to support Horsham District good causes such as ours for which we are very grateful. There is also a chance to win the £25,000 jackpot every week!

Email for general enquiries:

admin@mens-shed-horsham.org.uk

Tel: 07934 507523

Business Hours:

10.00am – 4.00pm

Monday – Thursday

Safeguarding - along with Health & Safety this is everyone's responsibility. If you are concerned about a fellow Shedder's health/wellbeing please talk to your Shed Supervisor, Ben or Ann. Also please report any incidents at the Shed that may impact anyone in a negative way. If you have any questions don't be afraid to ask.

Registered Charity Number: 1173345.