

Men in Sheds MK

Chairs Report – AGM 15 April 2015

Another Good year

The Shed is now 3 years old and one year as a charity. It remains sound in operations, had a solid membership, committee structure and set of trustees. The future looks promising.

The Shed proves to be as vibrant as ever. The metalworking area has benefitted from machine gifts and with Steve's organisation along with others is taking good shape. Woodworking is as busy and again thanks to Andrew, Cowboy John and others and has also benefitted from donations of machinery.

The social/lounging area of the Shed continues to attract a good number of men, if anything proving as, if not more popular, than the workshops. But this is what the Shed is about, each to his own interest and pursuit.

A number of new developments have taken place, namely the progressive introduction of electronic fobs for members to register in and out of the building which will also dual as access control to selected machinery in the workshops, so improving our safety regime.

The latest development has been to establishing a Hackspace group. This will result in an influx of younger blood and perhaps some more energy to do things. It's also means the Shed is going the get extended use, especially as Hackspacers in the main will be meeting in the evening, an extension of the usual Shed days.

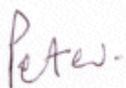
As to finances, we bump along. The last year has seen us having to meet the first full 12 months cost of the "rent" for the Shed, some £8000 per year. Total running costs have therefore topped £10,000 including insurance and general expenditure.

Local Giving matched funding has yet again provided significant funding but this is likely to prove more difficult in the future. On the flip side, half our regular membership donates monthly through Local Giving, which gives us a healthy steady income. More members doing the same would be welcome. In recognition of this "bumping along" on finances, the bulk of the memberships recently agreed to an increase in their regular donations.

On the Shed activity front, we are trying to establish some monthly events; demonstrations, talks, sausage sizzle, competitions and cookery feature in the list. We continue to be as active in support of the community, supplying bird boxes, making raised beds and producing signs and fete amusements.

The Shed continues to act as a local focal point for developing more Men's Sheds in the area. Aylesbury, Buckingham, Bedford and Hemel can be counted in that number along with embryonic Sheds in Winslow, Cambridge, Bletchley, Biggleswade and Towcester.

Finally, my thanks goes to the committee members in the support they have provide me over the last year, and of cause to the Shedders, without which nothing would happen.



Peter Gallagher, Chair Men in Sheds MK