

Men in Sheds MK

Registered Charity Number 1156425



Giving a welcome and support for men with time on their hands

From the Chair

Hi all - Its time for another newsletter.

A lot has changed since the last edition. The changes within the Committee and Trustees have now been in place for several months and we are now working through the long list of tasks, many of which Shedders can get involved with. Details will be coming shortly.

I would like to reassure members that the Committee is made up of elected members from all areas of the Shed and that all decisions are made for the benefit of the Shed as a whole.

We will shortly be producing a rogue's gallery which will identify those who can assist with queries that you may have for the relevant areas of the shed as we can't always be in. Also people to contact in the event of a (non-medical) emergency or unexpected visitor.

Thanks for the continuing efforts from everyone in helping the Shed to grow and develop.

Michael West

Autumn clean

We have been trying to clear the Shed of miscellaneous surplus equipment and junk. John Orme and Andy Selby have had a large clear out in the metalwork area. Dave Tilley has recently cleared the woodwork area, with John Weir tackling the long overdue issue of dust extraction.

This work is by no means the limit of what is intended – we need to be realistic about which equipment and materials to keep and which to sell, pass on to others who can use it or dispose of it.

To this end, on the weekend of **13/14th October between 10 a.m. and 6**



News in Brief

Shed maintenance and repairs

As we are now the leaseholders of the Shed, and it is a 'Repair' lease we need to make a careful assessment of works that need to be carried out to maintain the premises in good order and to keep this under regular review. Unfortunately since taking on the lease we have been hit with a number of essential jobs.

These include various electrical fixes and significant plumbing modifications reported elsewhere in this newsletter. These sometimes unexpected costs underline the need for us to raise as much income as possible through donations. Please see below for ways of doing this.

Machine training and accreditation

As some Shedders will know, we are now using the Classmarker system for machine accreditation and a number of Shedders have already succeeded in achieving accreditation on a range of woodworking machines. We hope to roll this out across the Shed and to extend it to metalworking machines over the next few months. However, in order to do this we need experienced people to

Tasks include clearing out the foyer of cobwebs, clearing up the office/den area, going through the donated tool stash, knackered drill bits, sorting the taps/dies, metalwork and woodwork general tidying. After this weekend we hope that no major clearing out within the Shed will be necessary for several months, and that everyone will be able to use the facilities unimpeded by clutter.

To ensure that the Shed stays tidy after the clear-up it goes without saying that everyone is responsible for ensuring that at the end of a session all workbenches are clear and the floor is swept or vacuumed.

Projects and items brought to the Shed

On the back of the clear-up, a new project labelling system is being introduced.

All projects/items brought in to the Shed must be labelled with the appropriate identification and a date by which it will be removed from the Shed.

What about items that are already in the Shed? There is an amnesty to the end of October (this year). After that you will be asked to either remove it from the Shed or label it as appropriate and follow the guidelines.

Notices will be put around the Shed to this effect, along with packs of identification tags. It will be the members' responsibility to ensure they identify their projects.

We are working to clear the lower levels of the racking of surplus kit, abandoned projects etc. to make way for members to house their projects when they are not in the Shed and able to work on them. There is also potential to use the space under the benches to store projects once they have been cleared out.

Hacky Racers

You may have seen two "vehicles" being made in the Shed on the edge of the metalwork area. These were built for the Hacky Racers. This is a new series that is trying to get established in the UK. It is loosely based upon the Powerwheels series in the US. There are rules and regulations. Essentially the vehicle must be battery powered, meet some size requirements, have basic safety in mind, and look like it was or is a child's ride-on toy (or similar).

As some Sheddors will know, the Makerspacers attend a festival every 2 years called Electromagnetic Field or EMF Camp. This was the venue of the first official set of racers.

I built two. I made a 6 wheel, 4 wheel drive enlarged little tykes car from 1.5 golf mobility scooters and 3 Little Tikes cars to make the bodywork. All was well until it snapped the original steering arms in a place that I could not weld. Not very quick but had superb traction and comedy value. I will be making a trailer to lug my stuff around hacker camps in the future. Comedy value made it worth it alone.

newly-accredited Sheddors while they actually use the machines in question, to ensure that they can apply what they have learned in theory to the practice. If you think you have the necessary skills to take on this role, please make yourself known to a Committee member.

Hot Work and Metalwork areas

Thanks to the efforts of a number of Sheddors, the hot working area, containing a flux-cored gasless welding set up, the metal chop saw and grinding wheel is almost ready for use. We are just awaiting the creation of some safe working guidance. Reorganisation and rationalisation of the metalwork area continues and we have been lucky enough to acquire some additional machine tools, including a combination milling and drilling machine and a metal bandsaw very kindly donated by Peter Chambers.

Health matters

Peter Gallagher has drawn our attention to two upcoming prostate health-related events that might be of interest to Sheddors.

See <https://www.prostatemk.org/diary> for details. Note that the **Free PSA Test** is on 6 October (**THIS SATURDAY!**)

IT Developments

In addition to the new fob system described elsewhere, Michael West and John Orme have been busy improving our back office systems for managing membership records and email. Next to receive attention will be the [Shed website](#) which is now woefully out of date. Check out the [Makerspacers site](#) to see the kind of lively web presence that the Shed as a whole might aspire to.

Finally, work is nearing completion on an electronic noticeboard which we hope will help to keep Sheddors up to date with what's going on.

Social events

There have been some suggestions for social events to take place over the next few months, including a pub lunch and visits to other sheds (and why not combine the two?). If you are interested in attending a social event - or even helping to organise one - please speak to John Orme.

called the “EMF Van” in honour of the event itself. This was made from a heavyish duty mobility scooter chassis. Power comes from a 2KW (2.6HP) motor upgrade and cheap Chinese 1.5KW controller (soon to be upgraded to 2KW). Slightly too long on the gearing, it will do 25mph plus.

So we raced them alongside other creations. Some Youtube footage from Maja Dunn (the wife of one of our members who attended the event) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W07ma3zEbCE> can be seen.

A big thanks to Jack for his time in getting the EMF Van ready. Couldn't have done it without you!

[EMF camp](#) was a huge success – run by volunteers, and all of the Makers who attended thoroughly enjoyed it.

Michael West

Trouble with the waterworks

You are probably aware that we have had a visit from the water supplier to the Shed. They have put an improvement notice upon us, triggered by a name change on the account. Much of the plumbing within the Shed has not been touched for 40 years, with later, now unused additions now ensuring that we do not meet the regulations.

We have had a quote for the work which is not an insignificant amount. We have applied for a grant from the MK Community Foundation towards the work. We have another couple of weeks before we find out if we are successful. If we are it will meet 50% of the cost.

Unfortunately, this will probably mean that for a couple of days the Shed will not be able to open. This will be due to a lack of water – either for drinking or the loos being unavailable.

Once we have the dates they will be put up in the Shed, plus a notification circulated on email and Slack

Green fingers

The Shed was approached by the Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council to build and replace its wooden planters.

A number of Sheddies took part in researching and producing the designs based upon their locations, and then using the facilities within the Shed to construct them with the materials purchased by the Town Council.

The first phase of these was completed several weeks ago, and well received by the Council. We are due to start work on the second phase shortly.

Clocking in (and out)

The old fob system packed up a few weeks ago. We have been working on its replacement – you may have noticed the new readers in the entrance hall.

members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Ricky Briggs, Nadi Perumal, Michael Shelley, Carl Nielsen, Keith Masonne, Matthew Veale, Ian Jasper, Alan Playford, Helen Calderon, Tom Aal, Brian Clarke, Carlos Gavin, John Rudland, Tony Adams, Daniel Fippard.

We hope you'll find The Shed a rewarding place to be

Donate. Please!

Single Donation

Give Monthly



Remember you can very easily donate to the Shed and help it remain a going concern, by going to [this link](#). Thank you. We have also identified a couple of comparatively effortless ways of raising funds for the Shed: The first is through [Give as you Live](#) and the second is through [Amazon Smile](#). Both of these enable you to sign up so that anything you purchase through their websites generates a donation to the charity of your choice. Why not sign up now and choose Men in Sheds MK as your charity? It costs nothing and doesn't commit you to buy anything

shortfalls.

In the medium term, we will be using the new control units to restrict access to the equipment that requires accreditation to operate. We have to build some helper electronics, which the Makerspace has taken on.

Our insurance dictates that we must ensure you are competent to operate the equipment. So long as your record sheet is up to date, you will continue to be able to use the equipment.

As a reminder, if you are not accredited, you must not use that piece of equipment. Please also ensure you use suitable PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) – normally at least eye protection, but also safety boots, gloves and ear defenders or otherwise as required. The non-use of PPE or persistent improper use will not be tolerated and will ensure you are prevented from using the equipment.

Newsletter created and edited by Nigel Pigott (nigelp387@gmail.com) with additional content by Michael West.

Contributions to future editions are most welcome

Our supporters include:



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