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Update on Re-opening of the Shed

After a week of preparation by the Committee and others the Shed re-opened to members on Monday 13 July with a range of Covid-19 safety measures in place. Attendance since then has been low, with numbers in single figures for both the daytime and evenings and we currently foresee no need for a booking system. The low attendance is not surprising as many of our most vulnerable members or their partners are still shielding on medical advice. We know from the survey that at least some of these are planning to return after 1 August but it's quite likely that numbers will not return to their former levels until the autumn or even later. We are confident, however, provided that people follow the rules on social distancing, face coverings and hygiene/sanitisation that we can offer a safe environment for up to ten members in the re-arranged upstairs area, up to six in the workshop and four in the modelling area.

For those of you who find it difficult to wear a face mask for extended periods I'm pleased to say that the Makerspace has supplied a quantity of transparent face shields (see below for a report on this project). Although these are not perfect they have been shown to offer an acceptable level of protection from airborne infection to both wearer and those with whom they are in close contact. If you choose to use one you must retain it for your exclusive personal use.

if you have any concerns regarding your attendance please call the Shed on 01908 267126 during normal opening hours (currently 9.00-16.00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday) or email info@meninshedsmk.org.uk

Les Hubbard

We have received the very sad news that Les Hubbard has passed away after an extended stay in Milton Keynes hospital with steadily deteriorating health since May. Although Les had been seen only infrequently at the Shed in recent times he was one of the founder members of the Shed and remained a Committee member, membership secretary and trustee until his death. He had previously served with distinction for many years as Treasurer. He also played a role as trustee of the Milton Keynes Play Association and was involved for many years with the Milton Keynes Canoe Club.

Les will be missed for his quiet sense of humour, his conscientious fulfilment of his many roles and his thoughtful contributions to Committee discussions and Shed policy. Our sympathies go to his widow Molly and family.

severely restricted, former Chairman Peter Gallagher has kindly offered to represent the Shed.

Dennis Owen

Sadly we have also today been informed of the death last week after a long illness of another longstanding Shed member, aircraft modeller Dennis Owen, . A full appreciation will appear in a future newsletter but in the meantime our sympathies go to Dennis's family.

2020 Annual General Meeting

Members will probably be aware that we have now passed the date by which the 2020 AGM should have been held. The reasons for this need no explanation or apology but please be assured that will get back on track with this as soon as we are sensibly able to do so. As will be clear from the above sad announcement we already have one Committee and trustee vacancy to fill and other positions will come up for re-election. Please consider whether you might be willing to contribute to the running of the Shed in this way.

Shed finances

Once again I am pleased to say that the majority of those donating to the Shed through Local Giving have continued to do so but we have lost significant income through the lack of weekly demijohn contributions. We are seeking ways in which some of this loss can be underwritten from charitable sources but in the meantime we look forward to the return of those who have been regular contributors so that the future of the Shed can be secured. A fuller report from our Treasurer will appear in the next update.

Community Projects

We reported in an earlier newsletter on the huge effort by the Maskerspace and others to 3D print face shields for staff in care homes, pharmacies and other health-related environments. Over 3000 shields were produced and you can now read [Michael West's report](#) on the initiative. Work has also re-started on several other community projects and we have more on the stocks for those interested in contributing to this work.

Nigel Pigott

Secretary, Men in Sheds MK, on behalf of the Management Committee and Trustees

nigel.pigott@meninshedsmk.org.uk

P.S. [Shedfest 2020](#) has now ended but all the sessions are still available online.



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Men in Sheds MK · Unit 30, Burners Lane · Kiln Farm · MILTON KEYNES, Bucks Mk11 3HB · United Kingdom

