

# Welcome to 2021

## A Happy New Year to all Shedders and Makerspacers.

As we enter Week Three of Lockdown III there seems little immediate prospect of re-opening the Shed. The good news however is that infection rates in MK, although still high, seem to be falling, there have been no reports of Shed members falling seriously ill and some of our older members have already had their first and even second vaccinations. The over 70s should have had at least one shot by mid February and all of us who are over 50 might have had them by the spring. All this offers a genuine prospect that we might be able to re-open in March. In the meantime here is [a link to a leaflet](#) on supporting your own mental health at this stressful time.

On another health-related topic, I have received the following from the MK NHS concerning diabetes care, which I know will be relevant to some of our members:

Diabetes-UK have produced a new resource to help people with diabetes to understand what care they should be receiving during the pandemic. The resource is called 'Your diabetes care during coronavirus' and this is [a leaflet](#) and [a web resource](#)..

No doubt we have all by now found ways of getting through the winter days, even if we would really rather be at the Shed. I try to get out walking or cycling when the weather isn't too awful and I have a few small home projects to get on with but it's too muddy at the allotment and too cold in my garage to be working on anything larger, such as my motorbikes. I was also given a model steam engine kit for my birthday but that will have to wait until I can get into the metalwork shop again.

The other good news is that many members are generously continuing to donate to the Shed through Local Giving and this has meant that we have sufficient funds in the bank to see us through the winter, as we still have to pay rent, insurance and other running costs on the building. It's also been agreed that we will defer payment of £1 annual membership subscriptions until April, by

which time I very much hope we'll have re-opened. In the meantime the offer still stands to open the Shed temporarily for members who wish to access materials or borrow tools. Just email [info@meninshedsmk.org.uk](mailto:info@meninshedsmk.org.uk)

Finally, members will be aware that we would in the normal course of events have held an AGM before June of last year, but for obvious reasons this did not happen. Although we have tried to keep people up to date with newsletters there have been no formal reports from the Chair or Treasurer or an opportunity to elect a new Committee and officers. We hope to rectify this as soon as it is possible for a face-to-face meeting to be held but in the meantime I can say that we will undoubtedly be seeking additional Committee members who are willing to devote time and energy to turning the Shed and Makerspace back into the thriving organisations that they were before we were hit by the pandemic. Please think about whether you would be willing to play a role.

Best wishes to all, and now, more than ever, stay safe and try to stay positive in the hope that we are over the worst.

Nigel

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Email produced by Nigel Pigott, Secretary, Men in Sheds MK, on behalf of the Management Committee and Trustees

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