

Return to the Shed!

As anticipated in the previous newsletter, the Shed is on schedule to re-open on 12 April. We are initially going to be cautious about numbers, to comply with the COVID-19 rules governing community facilities, which are expected to be in place at least until 17 May. This means that to facilitate social distancing we will be restricting numbers to the following maxima at any one time: woodwork shop: 6, metalwork shop: 4, model making area: 4, social area downstairs: 4, Makerspace/upstairs (new) social area: 11. All those attending are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering; either a mask or a transparent visor,(available at the Shed) and to use the hand sanitisers which are distributed throughout the building. We recognise that the majority of daytime attenders are likely to have been vaccinated at least once but we are proceeding on the basis of reassurance and safety for all members until we can be sure that infection risks are at a very low level.

Controlling attendance

We tried to operate a booking system when we opened last summer but this did not really work effectively so we are going to rely on self-regulation. If you arrive at the Shed and the area you wish to work or socialise in has already reached its occupancy limit, then please either move to another area that is less busy or leave and return later. Generally speaking morning sessions are busier than other times so you might wish to attend later in the day. You can always telephone the Shed (number below) before setting out to make sure there is room for you.

When to come

Current members are invited to return at any time on or after 12 April. Normal core opening times from 10.00-16.00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday will resume, with evening opening for the Makerspace on the same days (but check on Slack for any updates), and Sunday afternoon opening according to demand. Because we need to get routines and responsibilities re-established after the long closure, prospective new members are requested to wait until after 17 May before joining, although exceptions can be made if you have particular reasons for wishing to

come to the Shed before then or if you would like a tour, which you are asked to arrange in advance by emailing info@meninshedsmk.org.uk.

Subscriptions now due

All current members are reminded that the annual subscription of one pound is due from 12 April and until you have paid this and received a 2021 badge sticker you will not be considered a member, so you will not be covered by the Shed's insurance or be eligible to run for office or vote at the Annual General Meeting, which is expected to be held in June 2021 (with remote attendance available if we can arrange it).

On arrival at the Shed

Please sign in as normal on arrival and, if you have not already done so, please also sign the declaration (in the entrance lobby) that you understand and accept the risks involved in attending the Shed during the pandemic.

Appeal for help

Many regular Sheddors will have met Brad Hyde, the young model maker who has the neurological disease, Huntington's, which affects his cognitive abilities. He is keen to return to the Shed to continue work on his model boat, but he is urgently seeking a companion to accompany and assist him on his visits. If you know anyone who might be able to take on this *paid* role for four or more hours a week, please contact Brad's mother Barbara at ibbhyde@aol.com for more information.

Men's Health: prostate cancer

This is a reminder of the availability of a home testing PSA kit: You can order this through the Bedfordshire Prostate Cancer Group website www.bpcsq.org.uk at a subsidised cost of £11.50, but if you have concerns about your prostate health you may prefer to approach your local GP service first. You might also be interested in [this event](#), broadcast by the UKMSA last month but still available. Well worth a watch.

Fundraising

The MK Community Foundation's Mad March Matched Funding event held between 15 March and 26 March generated additional income for the Shed of 75 pounds. Unfortunately direct debits to Local Giving are not eligible for matched funding so the very significant sum donated by our members by this means did not count. The available funds were also used up very quickly by other organisations whose members donated early in the cycle. A lesson for next time.

This newsletter has been sent to everyone on our current mailing list. If you are not at present a member and you wish to join, or rejoin, the Shed you will need to complete [an application form](#) and bring it along to the Shed with your annual subscription of one pound. If you do not wish to join or to continue to receive emails from the Shed please use the Unsubscribe link at the end of this message.

Best wishes to all

Nigel

(On grandparent duty in South Wales so won't be back at the Shed until the beginning of May).

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

Open Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00 – 17:00

Tel 01908 267126

email: info@meninshedsmk.org.uk

Website: www.meninshedsmk.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/MeninShedsMK

Makerspace website: <https://mkmakerspace.co.uk/>

Registered Charity No. 1156425

Donate: localgiving.com/charity/mismk

UK Men's Sheds Association

Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/575243759890248/

This email was sent to all on the current mailing list for Men in Sheds MK and the MK Makerspace.



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This is a test email

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