



Nailed It! (Shed News)

Volume 2, Issue 5

6th February 2022

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

Inside this issue: Although it's been a while since the last issue of "Nailed It" things have still been moving onwards and upwards at the Shed.

Onwards and Upwards

The building works are complete, and with the enthusiastic help of some Shedders the internal facilities are now up and running.

It's Goodbye . . .

. . . from Him

Repair Café

Helping Others

Links

And Finally!



We're regularly open two mornings a week, and as demand increases we plan to be open at additional times as well.

Some sessions are restricted to men only, while others are open to all, and the aim is to have a range of days and times when the Shed is "open for business" and people can drop in when, and as often, as they wish. So, if one of the current opening times doesn't suit you, please let us know when you would like to see us open and we'll do our best to accommodate as many a possible.



It's Goodbye from me . . .

As some of you may know, having found the site and successfully established the Shed my contract with MAYFACS as the Shed Development Lead ends on 6th February.

It's been an extremely time-consuming task, with many hurdles that needed to be overcome, but overall I'm extremely proud of what's been achieved and now the Shed is established I hope it will continue to flourish (continued inside) . . .

. . . And it's goodbye from "him"

The idea of setting up a Men's Shed had been discussed within MAYFACS, as it was apparent their activities weren't attracting many men, and it was felt that a Men's Shed would help redress the imbalance.

As I'm sure some reading this will be aware, Men's Sheds started in Australia, where male suicide rates were high, and it has developed into an international movement. There is a national support organisation called the "UK Men's Shed Association" that currently represents over 500 Men's Sheds in the UK, with hundreds more in development, and many more across the world. The MAYFACS Shed are members, and more information can be found on their website www.menssheds.org.uk

MAYFACS' main aim is to help to alleviate loneliness and isolation, and as someone who lives alone, with no immediate family, and working from home, I was as acutely aware how lonely and isolating that can be.

So I became interested and met a group of other chaps at the old Bowls Club in Vale Road that were trying to start a MAYFACS Men's Shed. Sadly, after hundreds of hours preparation, it became clear the owners of the property didn't share MAYFACS' visions for a community Shed at the site.

This was a considerable blow to the Shed project, and also to the morale of those of us who had the vision of what it could have been, so I offered to take on the task of finding an alternative site.

Following a direct approach to the owner of Merrieweathers Farm we were delighted to find they were extremely supportive, and granted us a Lease on the former farm workers welfare, workshop and generator building in September 2020.

I subsequently secured planning consent and, despite the intervention of Covid-19, have managed to get the Shed up and running, and ready to help many more people.

This would not have been possible without the tremendous practical help of volunteers, considerable donations from businesses (there's a list on www.mayfacs.org.uk) and also individuals – I won't mention names but you know who you are, and please accept my sincerest thanks for your support.

It's a journey that hasn't been without it's "downs", and not everyone has been so supportive, but I'm proud of what has been achieved and wish the Sheddors every success with "their Shed", as they take ownership for the next phase in its development.

So long, and thanks for all the fish! Ian B. (thanks to The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy)

REPAIR CAFÉ at the Shed

Since September 2021, on the fourth Saturday of the month, we have been running a Repair Café at the Shed, offering repairs of household items.



You can watch the volunteer repairers and learn how the item is repaired, or leave it with the Repair Team who will, where possible, repair it and have it ready for collection as soon as possible.



The repairs are free of charge, other than the cost of any parts or materials, although a donation would be very welcome towards the Shed funds.

If you have a skill repairing or restoring something, and would like to join the team of volunteer repairers to help out in the Repair Shed occasionally, we would really like to hear from you.

Visitors are also welcome to pop in for a cuppa and cake, and there is no charge, although we ask for donations towards the Shed running costs if you are able.



If you are out for a walk, or taking your dog out for its exercise, the Shed is located near some great footpaths and lovely countryside.

When the Repair Café is open there is a board at the direct access gate from the bridleway/footpath

passing Merrieweathers, so pop in and say hello. Parking for the Shed can be accessed via the Merrieweathers Farm Drive, although please don't leave your car there when not in the Shed, as the gate gets locked!

The Repair Café fits in well with the **re-use, repair and upcycle ethos of the Men's Shed movement**, and we are members of the Repair Café International Foundation <https://repaircafe.org/en/>

HELPING OTHERS

We are sometimes offered secondhand tools and machines, often from the estates of those who have passed away, or by people having a clear-out, or downsizing.



We are very grateful for good quality items, but will always make it clear that if we can't use the items donated we will try to upcycle or repurpose them, or failing that sell them to raise funds for the Shed.

Sometimes we are left with old hand tools that we already have, or just cannot use, and so we are linking up with a charity that refurbishes and sharpens such tools, before making up "tradesmans" packs and sending them to rural communities in Africa to help them build their communities.

A FEW LINKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

Axminster Tools Woodworking Wisdom youtube video series, February topics:
<https://knowledge.axminstertools.com/woodworking-wisdom-schedule-february-2022/>

Current issue of UKMSA newsletter "Shoulder to Shoulder":
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8d4cjr>

And past issues of "Shoulder to Shoulder": <https://menssheds.org.uk/newsletter-archive/>

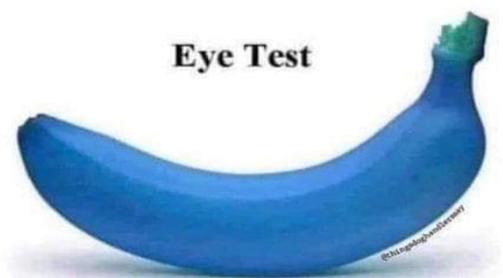
AND FINALLY!



If you're new to Sheds, here's a couple of links from the UKMSA:

[What is a Shed](#)

[Why join a Shed](#)



Yellow: Normal
 Red: See a doctor
 Blue: You need more tools

Contacts

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