

Welcome to the latest summertime edition of the AMS newsletter. While many of us are thinking of holidays by the beach, a lot has been happening behind the scenes.



Developments



The brain-storming session held on 1st July generated lots of ideas about the future of Alton Men's Shed. These were looked at by your committee and a number of ideas are being actively pursued:

- A programme of events and activities - led by a working group (Gordon, Pete, Michelle, Sharon and Mark)
- A new business plan - led by Sharon and Michelle
- An extended range of activities for members to become involved in - led by the working group and Dave

A new publicity flyer has been printed, courtesy of **TOP PRINT**, who have provided 500 copies free of charge.

Thank you, **TOP PRINT**!

Copies have been distributed to a number of locations around the town, including the library, the community centre, the assembly rooms, the Maltings and Resurrection Furniture.

They were also available at the All Things Nature event in the Public Gardens on 16th July 2022 - more of that later.



The idea of a Men's Sheds began in Australia and was based on the notion of bringing men together to engage in practical activities collectively – the type of activity individuals might

A number of new activities, discussed at the brain-storming session, included

- A monthly IT workshop

- A practical wood finishing workshop
- A tool sharpening workshop
- Painting techniques sessions
- An introduction to underfloor heating
- Under the bonnet of an electric car

To get any or all of these going, we need to see who is interested.

So, if you have an interest in developing your computer skills, have a computer problem that's driving you mad or need help with the Internet, your mobile 'phone or tablet, contact John C. We could run a session once a month on a Friday morning. So, before you throw that piece of equipment out of the window in frustration, we might be able to help.

If you want to get involved in a hands-on wood finishing workshop, contact Mike. This would be a one-off session but could be repeated if demand is high.

If you have chisels, lawn mower blades etc. that require sharpening, contact Mike. This could be repeated every three months.

If you would like to develop your wood painting skills and learn new techniques, contact Michelle.

If you are planning to install underfloor heating in the future, this workshop session will allow you to learn from the experience of a fellow-member, who has successfully completed it in his home. If interested, contact Gordon.

If you are interested in exploring electric cars, Gordon is happy for you to have a look at his and chat about how it works and drives. If you are interested, contact him so that he can arrange a session for those interested.

Several members have expressed interested in inviting other organisations to give talks and/or demonstrations to Alton Men's Shed. If you have any ideas, talk to one of the committee members.

All Things Nature

Alton Men's Shed took part in the "All Things Nature" at the Town's Jubilee Park. We showed a range of bird and bat boxes, plus hedgehog boxes all made from recycled materials by the shed members. A lot of interest was shown by visitors in the activities of the shed and there were a number, who enquired about membership.



All Things Nature

Many thanks to John Campion, Sharon, John S, Phil and Mike for representing AMS in the blazing sun.

Projects Update

Watch the Birdie!

Following a request from the Beavers in Holybourne, to provide bird boxes that could be assembled by these keen six- to eight-year-olds, 24 bird boxes, in kit form were duly constructed and several members helped the children assemble them. Another successful project completed!



The Vikings have landed



The Bearded Vikings Re-enactment group needed some shields cutting out so that they could then finish and decorate them.

This must be the first encounter that a Men's Shed has had with Vikings. But, another job well done to those involved

Other projects

To keep up-to-date with new community projects coming on stream, watch out for the notice board in the Shed and/or emails from Dave.

Don't forget that the Shed is yours to use for your own projects. A couple of recent examples are: a fire pit made from an old washing machine drum and a project to make garden trugs. If you need assistance with any personal projects, help is always at hand.

Social Events

The next planned trip is to Amberley Museum on 4th August 2022, leaving at 9.30am. If you are interested, please contact Mark. Tickets are £10.00, including transport. There is a café there, selling freshly made sandwiches/baguettes, hot pasties and sausage rolls, cakes, crisps, ice creams and confectionery. The Café is licensed and sells Hepworths beers as well as a variety of wines. More information is available at www.amberleymuseum.co.uk.

There are Shed social gatherings on the second Thursday of the month at the Departure Lounge Café on the A339 towards Basingstoke (GU34 4BH). These start around 10.00am. More details from Mark.

Shedders' meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at All Saints' Church Hall from 10.00am to 12.30pm. This is a chance to socialise, catch up on what's happening and contribute to the development of Shed activities.

Dates for your diary

- Trip to Amberley Museum on 4th August 2022, leaving at 9.30am sharp.
- Shedders' meetings at All Saints' Church Hall from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
 - 5th August 2022
 - 2nd September 2022
- Social gathering at the Departure Lounge from 10 am - come when you can
 - 11th August 2022
 - 8th September 2022
- AMS committee meeting at All Saints' Church Hall from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm
 - 19th August 2022
 - 16th September 2022