

Newsletter

March 2023

Welcome to the March edition of the newsletter. Let's hope that this marks the beginning of Spring.

The funeral of our friend and fellow-member, Bob Ogilvie, took place on Thursday 23rd February. It was attended by many Shed members and he had a good send off. Rest in Peace Bob.

The Big News

The question that everyone is asking, "When are we moving to Edgar Hall?"

This has been a very complicated process, involving negotiations with Alton Town Council, Dementia Friendly Alton and the solicitor. There has also been lots of discussions among AMS Trustee and committee members ... and a fair few rumours.



To make sure all members are up-to-date and fully involved in where this process is and what the future holds, there will be a briefing at the Shedders' social on 3rd March 2023. This will give everyone a chance to hear the latest news, ask questions and contribute to the future direction of your Shed. Make sure you are there, if you can.

Our reporter from Australia

Gordon visited Beaumaris Men's Shed near Melbourne in Australia. As you know, Australia is the home of the Men's Shed movement. He reports that this shed had huge well-equipped spaces for both practical and social activities.

The lease for the two adjacent buildings from the local council is for a peppercorn rent of 1A\$ (56p) per month. The Men's Shed is seen as a valuable community resource and as such, obtains generous funding from national and state agencies.

Beaumaris Men's Shed now has every tool they need but still take offerings from the affluent area and ship surplus to country township Men's Sheds. They always accept offers to clear garages and so on. They then sort and redistribute the items, often to the local tip as much of it is rubbish.

Projects are assessed, but only taken on if the men are interested and no timescale is promised. Most of their timber/ metal is gifted towards defined projects by builders' merchants or financed by businesses.

Membership is registered annually and subscription set by the insurance divided by the number of members. Typically, this is \$50 (£28) per year. Check out the photos below:



Well, that gives us something to aspire to!

Projects update

School planters

One of the biggest projects undertaken by Alton Men's Shed was the construction of 33 planters for Alton Infant School has been completed. Dave is due a huge vote of thanks in directing this project from start to finish. Thanks are also due to the team that helped see the work through.



Here are some of the comments from the public on our Facebook page:

- "Love it!!!"
- Great job
- Awesome work

It's nice to be appreciated.

The planters have now been lined and are awaiting filling with soil.

Have a look if you are passing.



Sessions with beavers and cubs.

The first session with Anstey Park Beavers went very well. The Chawton Park Cubs will be making picture frames on 6th and 13th March for their woodwork badge. We have also been asked to help with session for Greenfields Beaver Group. Dates to be advised. **Volunteers are required.** Please see Mike for details.

School post-box.

This has now been completed. Thanks to Ray for seeing this through.

Bird boxes for the cemetery.

These have now been completed in time for the breeding season. Again, thanks are due to Ray for his work on these.

All Saints' Church Hall chair repairs.

These have now been completed - again with thanks to Ray.

Orchard House social and craft sessions.

These are held on Wednesdays (11.00am to 12.00pm). **Volunteers are required.** Please see Mike for details.

Allotment number signs.

Alton Town Council has given the go ahead for making 360 of these. We'll need lots of help for this project. Details from Dave.

The following projects are currently being assessed:

- Constructing a gate for the dinner club.
- Making a double compost bin for ALFI and some planters at the station site.
- Holybourne Village Association requires renovation of a bench, a wood surround for the roll of honour and cleaning of a plaque.
- Alton Rugby Club requires various small jobs to be completed on an on-going basis.
- There has been an enquiry to construct a disabled ramp for a local resident.
- Tidying up of the Hospital garden - tasks to be arranged.

Volunteers are required to lead and work on all of these. For details, please see Dave in the first instance.

Volunteer/s needed

Dave is standing down as project assessor at the AGM. After doing a sterling job, Dave has decided to step down. Now these are big shoes to fill but we need one or more volunteers to step forward. Dave is happy to support you to ease into the role. Please talk to him if you are interested. Remember, it is your Shed and it can only function when people get involved.

Health and Safety Training

This has been rearranged for Friday 3rd March 2023 after the Edgar Hall briefing. This is to ensure that anyone wishing to use the machine tools are safe to do so. If you can't make it, please contact Mike to arrange another date. Remember, **NO SAFETY TRAINING = NO USE OF THE MACHINES**

Social and Organised Events

The dates of upcoming breakfast meetings at the Departure Lounge are: 16th March, 20th April and 18th May 2023. Things start at around 10.00am. Please put these dates in your diaries.

Other dates for your diaries:

- Shedders' social on Friday 3rd March 2023 at All Saints' Church Hall - 10.00am to 12.00pm. Donations of biscuits, cakes and savouries welcome.
- AMS committee meeting on Friday 24th March at All Saints' Parish Hall - 10.00am to 12.30pm

A couple of outings have been proposed:

- A visit to Portsmouth Historic Boatyard 4 to see boats being constructed and renovated. Entry is free.
- A visit to Mercedes world. Free entry.

There will be sheets on the Shed notice Board for you to sign up to either or both of these, if you are interested. Once we know how many are interested, we can set dates and arrange cars to get there. The only cost will be a contribution towards fuel.