



Alton Men's Shed Newsletter

March 2022

Welcome to the March 2022 bumper edition of the AMS newsletter.

Committee Update

There have been a couple of changes to the membership of the AMS committee. Barry and John S have stepped down and Mark has been voted in as Social Secretary.

The committee has now developed an action plan, which will be reviewed at every committee meeting. This draws together all of the developments that have been started or need to be included. It will be a living document that will be added to as required. This action plan is wide-ranging and covers items such as: updating the tools and equipment inventory; publicising AMS more widely; continuing to explore new premises; improving general procedures and organisation; and improving communication among members and with outside bodies.

One of the things we have to deal with is meeting the requirements for data protection (GDPR). We need to get every member's permission (or not) on how your data can be used, such as whether you are willing to share your contact details with other members and happy to be photographed for publicity purposes. We will do this through a new membership form that all existing members will be required to complete in April when the new membership year will begin.

The committee is working on a revised flyer and one of the things we want to do is take some photographs of happy smiling members outside and inside the Shed. We'll be doing this on 4th March during the Shedders' meeting. If you are willing to be photographed, bring along your best smiles and happiest faces.

General Matters

Another set of regulations we need to deal with under Health and Safety is electrical safety. All of the Shed's power tools and equipment are approved as being safe to use. Please do not bring any personal mains-powered tools of your own into the Shed as this will invalidate our insurance in the event of an accident. Your own battery-powered tools are fine to use in the Shed as long as the batteries are charged at home.

Don't forget that there must always be a minimum of two members present when the Shed is in use. It makes sense to make sure that everyone is safe.

Shed Activities

We have now been given use of All Saints' Church Hall every Friday morning. The first Friday of the month is devoted to the Shedders' gathering and the third Friday of the month is when the Committee meets.

So, we are left with the opportunity of using the hall on the other two Fridays. One thought was that we could begin to offer short courses to members on particular skills, such as developing their computer skills. Another idea was to offer short courses on practical skills, such as basic wood turning on a Monday afternoon in the Shed. So, what are your ideas? Please bring them to the Shedders' meeting on 4th March 2022.

Social Events

An outing to the Museum of Army Flying has been proposed for 7th April 2022. The cost will be £10.00 per head with the Shed subsidising any additional costs. There are 16 places on the minibus and the cost includes transport and admission.

Any ideas of other social activities are most welcome. Please bring along your ideas to the Shedders' meeting on 4th March 2022.

Community Projects Update

When potential community projects are assessed, we are often asked when we can do the work. We need to be able to confirm whether or not we can take the project on within very short time scales. Our ability to take on a project relies on members being willing to be involved.

In order to see whether members are interested in particular projects, all members will be contacted through the WhatsApp group or by email if you don't have access to WhatsApp. So, expect to receive notifications of opportunities and deadlines for projects and preferably reply Yes/ No.

The project for Alton Town Council is almost complete.



10 metal notice boards have been completed and all that remains is to finish the timber notice board and fix it to the outside of the Town Hall.

We have been given some storage space in the Church's metal shed. A team has built shelving for our storage and also for the play group's equipment. They also carried out some repairs on the Church's boiler room door. Well done to those involved. See photos below.

Improving storage in the metal shed at All Saints' Church



The planters for ALFI have also been completed.



And finally, the notice board for Froyle Parish Council is finished. See before and after photographs below.



A request was received from an elderly resident for AMS to extend the height of his garden fence to prevent the rehomed rescue dog from escaping. He has purchased the materials and a date has been set for the work, which should have been completed by the time you read this.

Upcoming community projects

- A request has been received from a group catering for people with dementia for AMS to assemble some metal planters.
- Resurrection Furniture is planning to move into new premises at 23A Alton High Street and has asked for help with decorating and some internal alterations.

More information on both of these potential projects to follow.

Dates for your diary

- Shedders' social meetings
 - 4th March 2022 (10.00am to 12.30pm)
 - 1st April 2022 (10.00am to 12.30pm)
 - 7th April 2022 - visit to the Museum of Army Flying - to be confirmed
- AMS Committee meeting
 - 18th March 2022 (10.00am to 12.00pm)
- Alton Men's Shed AGM - 29th April 2022. The venue and time will be communicated nearer the time.