



## Southern Men's Shed Network Tuesday 19th April 2016

At the Havant Men's Shed 43 Fraser Road, Havant, PO9 3EJ

**Present:** Steve Redrup, John Worley, Simon Ferré, Stephen Sadler, Noel Collyer, Andy Pottinger, Jim Steele, Nigel Cooper, John Sibley, Peter Beckham, Ian Scott, Brenda Scott, Lois Prior, Peter Eales, Andrew Bloxham, Adrian Kelly, Harry Haigh, Steve Badham, Douglas Mcany, Geoff Gollett, Dave Miles, Tony George, Bryan Booth, Andi Sacriers, Ron Bowater, Don Snosill, Graham Gowman, Bill Gidley, Keith Mason, Ian Price, Gary Walker, Gerry Johnson, Stewart Burns, David Guest, Jerry Corlass, Malcolm McInnes, Alex Brooks, Brian Cooke

**Apologies:** Angus Ross, Mike Brading

### 1. Welcome General Shed News / Updates

Steve Sadler (Havant) welcomed everyone and asked for updates from other sheds.

Graham Gowman (Romsey) mentioned that they are very close to starting to get a venue built.

Alton (Ian Scott) has three potential sites and they're a little short of funds for the building of their shed.

One of their potential sheds is a highly industrial site.

Lois (Isle of Wight) has funding to set up 15 men's sheds on the IOW. There may be a Water Shed where they will be able to work on boats and take part in water sports.

Andy Pottinger (Old Portsmouth) has arranged a meeting at Wymmering Manor for setting up a shed in Cosham on 17<sup>th</sup> May (TBC).

Dave Miles (Gosport) mentioned they now have a portakabin.

Malcolm McInnes (Fareham) said they haven't got off the ground yet, but they are hopefully going to be in a building that is to be a theatre, and at their first meeting they had 90 enquiries.

In our area are 31 sheds. The South is the first area to attempt to set up a network. The Network will attempt to help Sheds share resources, ideas, documents, and help each other in all aspects of running a Shed.

### 2. Application for Big Lottery funding for Sheds in the Region

Andy Pottinger said Tony Keene from Portsmouth City Council helped Portsmouth Shed with a substantial grant. However, each shed has to fend for itself, but the whole network could apply for a larger lottery grant/funding to be distributed to whichever shed needs it. Some funding is on a like for like basis, depending on the fund/grant, however many grants are not available unless the group is a Charity or CIO. One attendee mentioned that Community First has two representatives coming into Hampshire (one in Leigh Park Community Centre soon, the other in June) to help local groups get small amounts of lottery funding.

### 3. SMS Network Website and Forum Update on progress with the Network Website and Forum. Feedback from the floor.

The website – [www.smsn.org.uk](http://www.smsn.org.uk) – is set up with a forum to aid in communication between sheds. Can sheds email their most recent contact details to Steve Redrup so they can be entered into a table of sheds on the

website. There will be dropdown menus of shared documents, etc. There is a shared Calendar. A discussion forum is also available, with public and private areas. A show of hands indicated that about 40% of people present have never to their knowledge used a forum, so a brief introduction was given. It was asked whether all shed men can have access to the website and forum, which was agreed, and it was asked if each shed's private forum should be private to that shed's members. For the time being they will be public, but individual sheds can request for their forum to be made private. It has been asked to include a how-to use the forum topic on the forum. If you get that far to be able to read it you're over half way there at that point. It has been suggested to add a Photo Gallery, Downloadable Documents, Downloadable woodwork plans, (supplied by Waterloooville Shed) etc.

It was also explained why some areas should be kept as private to members. The main reason being that private areas cannot be accessed by search engines (such as Google). This is probably desirable to keep private details and ideas which are only in a development stage being generally available to the public through search engines.

#### **4. Updates from Active Work Groups**

- **Website / Document Templates Developing templates for individual Shed websites and common documents**

It was requested by Steve Redrup for input into where a list of documents such as Constitution, Membership forms, etc can be found, for linking on the website. These documents are all available on Havant Men's Shed's website, and the Havant Men's Shed is happy for the SMSN to use these as a basis of these shared templates. A member from Romsey stated the documents on HMS's website are very good.

There was also a brief mention of the work being done by Mike Brading (who couldn't be present) on a Shed Website Template. This is still ongoing and there are some points which need to be clarified with the Network Representatives which Mike will cover in a future email. Meanwhile, it would be useful if there was a shed (probably without a website) that would be interested in being a pilot for the new template concept.

One representative indicated interest and was asked to communicate with Mike through the Discussion Forum.

- **Registering as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

John Worley (Havant) showed a short presentation regarding becoming CIO registered. Being registered means a lot to potential donors, members and supporters, also it provides limited liability in case of serious issues. It is the ideal way to register as a charity, and trustees become directors. It means adopting a new constitution that runs to 28 pages, costs about £40 to register and can take a few months. Only three sheds are currently registered.

#### **5. Discuss how to activate other Work Groups**

- **Sharing Ideas**

The SMSN forum should be sufficient for this.

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- **Promotion / Publicity**

“Over three hundred sheds in three years” is the latest campaign, which will be used as a helpful aid to promoting Men’s Sheds. No new volunteers.

- **Group Insurance**

Brian Cook (Andover) and Don Snowsill (Romsey) put their details forward and mentioned they had been in touch with Zurich Insurance.

Brian Cooke, Don Snowsill and Graham Gowman volunteered to be on this work group.

- **Funding and Discounts**

No new volunteers.

- **Promote and Support New Sheds**

National Men’s Shed Week once a year (Feb or March in Australia).

- **Arrange regional show exhibitions and joint functions**

It was suggested to have a national meeting, possibly in Birmingham area. It was suggested to incorporate this with the UK Men’s Shed Association AGM to make it a two day event.

- **Swap Shop Forum**

The SMSN forum should be sufficient for this.

- **Planning Regulations / Restrictions**

Ian Scott cannot offer his services as an architect due to failing eyesight, but he is offering his experience in regard to planning. Ian Price, Andy Pottinger, Adrian Kelly and John Worley put their names forward for this Work Group, with Andy Pottinger as lead.

- **Training Requirements**

No new volunteers.

**6. Any Other Business Time to raise any other items not covered by the agenda**

Bournemouth Air Show - Poole Men’s Shed have block booking on a sailing ship below the flight path. Contact Poole Men’s Shed for more information/date/details. Or check SMSN website.

**7. Next Meeting Agree on a date and venue for next meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at Romsey (they will have to see if they can book a hall), or fall back to the venue of the first meeting. Check the SMSN website for details when available.

**Please Note that this meeting will now be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July at Romsey (due to booking difficulties)**

**Meeting Closed at 4:10 pm.**

**Steve Redrup would like to thank Havant Shed for hosting the meeting, John Worley for organising, Steve Sadler for chairing and Simon Ferré for taking the minutes.**