



Southern Men's Shed Network

Monday 6th March 2017

Hosted by Eastleigh Men's Shed

at Pilands Wood Centre. Chamberlayne Rd, Bursledon. SO31 8DT

Present: Stephen Redrup (Co-ordinator Southern Shed Network), Mike Brading (Chairman UKMSA), Brian Cooke (UKMSA), Anne Oxley (Director of Services UKMSA), Jo Phillips (Project Worker RVS), Mike Thompson (HugoFox Website Services), Angus Ross (Secretary Portsea Men's Shed)
+ Southern Region Shed Representatives (Over 50 people attended this meeting, those who signed-in are shown on a separate sheet.)

Apologies : Bob Gregory, Andrew Pottinger, David George

Steve Redrup (SMSN Co-ordinator) chaired the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Stephen Redrup welcomed everyone to the Pilands Wood Community Centre where we were guests of the Eastleigh Shed. He thanked the Eastleigh Shed for setting up the event. There was an exhibition of tools and accessories provided by Tool Lane UK – who also provided some excellent prizes for the Raffle (which raised £124 for the Eastleigh Shed). The documentary Utility Film Company (IOW-based) were unable to attend – three of their videos about Sheds are now available on the Website (www.smsn.org.uk/videos).

2. Eastleigh Shed

Hugh Millar described the progress of the Eastleigh Shed. They had started 3 years ago – meeting in the pub. A likely location was soon found (a former Sea Scouts Hut) but this was denied them by the local Council. Then they were offered a 'Garden Shed/Workshop' and this has now grown into a complex of several sheds with Canteen and Barbecue space. Shed 2A has been constructed out of pallets. They now have 40 members and meet 2 days a week. Evolution Tools gave them some tools and many others were contributed. A recent project included the making of a Model Train/Planter ('Fordie') which was built and installed at Chandlers Ford Railway Station.

3. General Shed News/Updates

READING: Nails all gone (went as scrap iron).

OLD PORTSMOUTH: Now set up as a CIO and has changed name to PORTSEA MEN'S SHED.
Possible new Shed at Wymering Manor in Cosham - there is to be an Open Day there soon.

COLDEN COMMON: Local Church School has given them a 25-year lease on a piece of land – and they are looking for Planning Permission for a Shed.

LUNCH and Raffle followed

4. Mike Brading (UKMSA)

Mike has recently been appointed as Chairman of UKMSA and will be heading up a new team. Their main aim is to Promote and Support the Men's Shed movement – through the website and media. There are now 370 Sheds open, 100 in process - and new ones are opening at the rate of three a week. There are now six or seven Regional Networks being set up as a result of the Southern Men's Shed network, which was described at one of the Shed Fest side room presentations. They want to deliver value to Sheds – currently concentrating on Administration needs (new Director of Services is being recruited).

Currently there are 7 Trustees, a Treasurer and 2 or 3 staff. Some progress has been made on Insurance (see below): they are setting up an Ambassador Programme (Contacts with Media, Councils, MPs): SHEDFEST is being planned for October (possibly North and South locations): improvements are being planned for the Website: they want to find out 'what sheds want': the AGM will be in July: CARFEST will be in August.

Insurance: A note was sent out recently to Shed Leaders – there has been some success in getting a 'Blanket Policy' (offered by Export and General at £450 pa). Poole Shed have a good deal – with Markel Insurance. (It was recommended that Underwriters should be encouraged to visit the Shed – as it was quite obvious that they had no idea what it is they are being asked to cover).

Training: There has been some interest in Training Courses – e.g.: Fire, Health and Safety, Machinery.

IT Shed: There is plenty of IT experience available within Sheds. The aim is to set up a 'cross-shed' organisation – with initial funding from UKMSA.

Cost to Sheds to join UKMSA would be £15 pa. Sheds are urged to sign up and pay.

They would get access to ASDA Sheds Grant Fund, The 'Find-a-Shed' facility needs to be kept updated (10,001 views in February). Basic advice would be offered.

Newsletter: 'Shoulder-to-Shoulder' needs a new Editor.

Websites: IT Shed: <http://theitshed.org.uk>

UKMSA: <http://ukmsa.org.uk>

Email: admin@menssheds.org.uk

5. Anne Oxley (Director of Services UKMSA)

Anne Oxley spoke briefly about her role, but said that Mike Brading had probably covered most of her main activities. Unfortunately Anne is currently in the process of interviewing for her replacement as she is about to retire, although she still expects to keep some contact with the UKMSA organisation.

6. Jo Phillips – Royal Voluntary Service

The RVS is looking at various ways to support 'older people'.

They are already working in partnership with UKMSA and Scottish MSA. RVS Assistance comes at 'No Cost'. They will assist with setting up a Shed – and again after 18 months or so with Fundraising, applying for Grants, etc.

7. Brian Cooke (UKMSA)

Last year's SHEDFEST was a great success.

This year CARFEST is being held at Laverstoke on the week leading up to the August Bank Holiday.

Last year was great fun – the pop music was good. Chris Evans is the organiser.

AXMINSTER TOOLS will be sending a team of four this year.

There will be tickets available for those who might want to come along and help decorate cars and lorries.

Sheds can advertise themselves on the Big Board.

Hampshire County Council have offered £10,000 over the next 12 months to support a project intended to promote 'Mens Sheds, Food and Rural Isolation'. The idea is that 6/10 Sheds should take part – offering

8/10 Events at Sheds which must include Food (e.g.: Cooking Demonstration, Simple Food, etc).

The Shed would need to be open for 2-4 hours. There would be a Fee payable (about £100).

8. HugoFox Websites

Michael Thompson of HugoFox described their Website Service.

They set up Community Websites (for free) for 'not-for-profit' Associations (also Parish Councils etc.) in association with Lloyds, Google and BT.

They provide a simple-to-build website which is suitable for PC, Tablet, Smart Phone. It is easy to build.

It can also provide a 'Donate' Button: it has Analytics, Search-engine optimisation and email alerts.

It supports links to other (e.g.: National) websites, Facebook etc.

Sheds are recommended to get their own Domain Name (.org.uk) at approximately £3.50 pa.

HugoFox provides assistance with setting up and running the website.

Their target is 40,000 websites by end-2017. Email: team@hugofox.com Website: www.HugoFox.Com

9. Future of the SMSN

As the SMS Network has now been going for just over a year, Steve Redrup felt that it was time to review whether or not the Network should continue. However judging by the attendance, this seemed an obvious answer. All generally in favour of keeping the SMSN going in its present format.

Suggestions for future Agenda items would be welcomed. It was suggested that there should not be too many speakers (especially 'outside' speakers). There was value in meeting members from other Sheds.

John Worley proposed that 3 years should be long enough for a Coordinator. There being no other volunteers for the role, Steve Redrup agreed to carry on for '1 more year'.

Steve thanked all the speakers and Eastleigh Shed for setting up the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

- a. **Eastleigh Shed:** Hugh Millar had been offered several pairs of B&Q Work Trousers by a Charity Shop. For Sale at £10.
- b. **Portsea Shed:** Mobile WiFi device obtained for Internet Access at the Shed.
Cost £80 for Device and 12GB Data valid for up to 12 months (£30 for replacement 12GB SIM).
- c. **Website:** Brief Demonstration of 'Woodwork and Craft Plans' now available on the Network Website (www.smsn.org.uk/ShedDrawings).

- d. **Film Company:** IOW Company making videos about Sheds.
Three videos now available on the Network Website (www.smsn.org.uk/videos).
- e. **Forum:** A few people now posting on the Forum.
These new entries automatically appear later on the next Saturday Newsletter.
- f. **Eastleigh Shed:** This was the biggest attendance so far. The Pilands Wood Centre was easy to get to and was a good place for the meeting. Hugh Millar thanked everyone for attending and for their donations towards the cost of the event. He thanked TOOL LANE for their demonstration and for the Raffle prizes.
- g. **Reading Shed:** Made 129 Reindeer last Christmas and raised £2070.

11. Next Meeting

Next SMSN Meeting will be in mid-June.

Date and place to be advised – probably Portsea (and maybe Southbourne in the Autumn).

12. Meeting Closed at 3:30 pm