



# Southern Men's Shed Network

## Monday 19th June 2017

**Hosted by Alton Men's Sheds**

**All Saints Parish Hall, Queens Road, Alton, Hants GU34 1HU**

**Present:** Stephen Redrup, Mike Brading, Brian Cooke, Angus Ross, Douglas Meany, Brian Dixon, Ian Scott, Andi Saunders, Brian Howard, Gordon Anderson, Alec Baker, Norman Dyckhoff, Mike Loxley, Terry Bull, Rob Kingman, Alan Hawkins, Graham Waring, John Worley, Steve Sadler, Ray Phillips, John Sibley, Bob Ogilvie, Peter Beecham, Phil Harding, Dave Woodhead.

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

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Stephen Redrup welcomed everyone to the All Saints Parish Hall, where we were guests of the Alton Men's Shed. He thanked the Alton Shed for setting up the event. There was also a special Thank You to Brenda Scott for the excellent buffet which had been laid on.

### **2. Introduction to Alton Men's Shed by Ian Scott: from vision to reality**

Inspired by men's sheds seen on Ian's visit to Australia and Tasmania, Alton Men's Shed was formed just over two years ago "to do things in the community for the community".

Examples of such projects are the refurbishment of local bus shelters, notice boards, a galleon for a children's playgroup, decorating the community centre, clearing overgrown gardens and refitting a local charity shop. The current major project is the conversion of a horse box into a mobile kitchen for a local museum; the trailer will provide catering for local events.

Our shed was self designed and constructed for £8,200. (£6,400 was funded by various grants and awards)

We have a gentleman's agreement to site the shed in the church car park for ten years. Sound insulation was particularly important as we are located in a residential area. Always listen to planners.

Although we have 38 members on our list, probably no more than 12 men are regularly involved with practical work.

### **3. General Shed News/Updates**

**Eastleigh:** Eastleigh MS are experiencing complications with a covenant regarding their shed site.

**Poole:** Poole MS are looking at the possible use of a 'Coldstream' portable building. The local miniature railway are making assumptions about possible partnerships without consulting the MS.

#### 4. Mike Brading / Brian Cooke (UKMSA)

Everything is very busy at UKMSA! The Board of Trustees and the ambassador programme manager role have been sorted out.

MS will be at Car Fest, Laverstoke Park Farm, near Overton 25-27 August

Andover Food Fest has now been moved to September due to workload. Details will be posted on the forum when available.

A request has been received from the Age UK project manager to build four fundraising wishing wells to be located in large shops.

National website is in progress ready for end of July, to also include newsletters and forum facility.

The Rayne Foundation has awarded a £140,000 grant for a three year period to fund the Ambassadors Project. (see 5)

#### 5. Brian Cooke (UKMSA)

Claire Shelton has taken up her ambassador's post from 29th May and is preparing a programme to commence September/October. The programme is "...all about getting more sheds built", and will help others to establish sheds, including providing and consolidating information in the form of easy to use guides. The best ambassadors are, of course, those who have already established sheds the hard way.

#### 6. General Points and Discussions

Many supermarkets have community engagement projects so get in touch. Asda grants are available, typically £250 to £1,000 for capital costs for sheds less than 18 months old. Deadline is 24<sup>th</sup> September and requires receipts to be submitted.

There are also many local 'charity of the month' type collections. The money is out there so get in touch with your local supermarket! It is proposed to place information on the MS website.

**Tools available.** A widow has an extensive list of good quality tools and machinery she wishes to sell with funds going to a hospice charity. Please contact Steve if you are interested and require full details.

**Insurance.** There was lively discussion on this topic. It was felt that many insurance professionals have no understanding of Men's sheds and their needs. Export & General are a small company that has expressed interest. Typical premiums of £300 for public liability, £150 for contents, and £25 for legal cover had been indicated. (Alton MS had experienced difficulty in obtaining a quote and it was suggested that John Mitchell of E&G was contacted)

It was felt that no one 'standard package' policy would meet the wide needs of all Men's Sheds.

**Tool supplier discounts.** There was confusion regarding the discount offered to MS and it seemed that some Axminster managers had offered discounts that did not always materialise; 5% seemed to be the norm. Triton Tools also offer a discount, although it was advised to check the safety conformance requirements for what may be DIY grade tools.

**CIOs** (incorporated charity organisations).

Some sheds are following this path with the Charity Commission. Constitutions have to be drawn up that are agreeable to the CC. One advantage of CIO status is that Gift aid can be claimed from HMRC (currently 25% for UK tax payers)

**Hugo Fox websites.** Sheds were asked for their experiences of using this website provider. It was also mentioned that BT offer free community websites.

#### **7. What else should the Network be doing / supporting**

Due to time this item wasn't fully discussed but Steve Redrup asked that the members please think of any activities, programs or ideas that the Network should get involved in.

This item will hopefully be included in the next meetings agenda.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

Next SMSN Meeting will be Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 at Southbourne Men's Shed.

#### **9. Meeting Closed at 3:20 pm**