



# Southern Men's Shed Network

## Monday 25th September 2017

Hosted by Southbourne Men's Sheds

Old School, New Road, Southbourne, PO10 8JX

Present: See attached list

Apologies: Poole Men's Shed,

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

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

Stephen Redrup welcomed everyone to the Age Concern Hall, Southbourne, where we were guests of the Southbourne Men's Shed. He thanked the Southbourne Shed for setting up the event. There was also a special Thank You to Heidi for the excellent buffet which had been laid on.

### 2. Introduction to Southbourne Men's Shed by Geoff Collett: How It All Began

Geoff Collett, ex-chair of Southbourne Men's Shed made a presentation with slideshow about the formation and development of the Southbourne Men's Shed from 2013 to the present and the concerns about the termination of the lease on the building. (Presentation Attached)

### 3. General Shed News/Updates

**Hayling Island Shed:** Tony George. They have a new 7-year lease and now need to get agreement for planning permission. A friendly neighbour will give access to the shed. A refurbished Port-a-cabin with cost estimated at £8k plus installation. 40 men on the books with 20 active members. Fundraising progressing to raise funds for upfront costs.

**Gosport Shed:** David Miles. A 'Gang Show' type production raised £900. They have a choir and musicians in the group. They have a Shed in Gosport college but may soon have to move to a different location on campus.

There was some discussion about using the SMSN Forum for announcing events which other sheds maybe interested in supporting or attending as these will automatically come out on the next weekly newsletter. Cookie (National office) advised against using copyright material and names including the use of descriptions i.e. 'Gang Show'.

**Romsey Shed:** announced they were trying to raise funding and were seeking support from ASDA and other supermarkets and are approaching other sources as they are planning to get a shed built soon. They are working on getting a lease agreement. They have been offered a lease from

Romsey School and are working on obtaining a 20-year term.

#### **4. Brian Cooke (UKMSA)**

Advised that a new Director of Services has been installed.

Regional Network groups are now setting up or are running in several areas.

Still investigating Insurance. (See UKMSA Website for updates and info).

Suggested that Sheds keep a record of how many Shedders and how many hours (man hours costs) are committed to each project when seeking match type funding for projects from charities etc..

Talk to local charities and large organisations when seeking match or standard funding.

Some Men's Sheds are reporting that organisations are still bringing people with special care needs but not supplying a carer for the visit. Need to Advise Organisations that Men's Sheds ARE NOT CARERS.

Tesco, Simply Health, Aviva and other large organisations offer local project and group funding. Research who is giving and how to apply. Charities have funds to give away. Seek those who are responsible for giving funding and ask for funds for projects.

UKMSA membership is good for all Sheds and can smooth the way when seeking support from companies and charities.

John Worley of Havant Men's Shed asked about membership subscriptions for UKMSA as he has not been asked for Subs recently. Several others present also mentioned they have not been asked for £15.00 sub's this year. Unfortunately UKMSA do not have an automatic reminder system and rely on sheds remembering to annually renew their subscription.

There are now about 460 sheds now listed.

Romsey Shed asked where money for UKMSA comes from other than membership. The Allen Lane Foundation have made substantial contributions and a number of other charities give support to qualifying Sheds.

The Chairman asked that all regional groups be listed on the UKMSA website.

We were reminded that Hugo Fox have offered free website development for Men's Sheds. Some local Sheds have made use of the offer and are pleased with the results.

#### **5. Isle of Wight Acoustic Music Shed**

Lois Prior is responsible for 6 Sheds on the IOW and gave a presentation (attached) on the activities of the music group at one . They are a group of men with the common interest of music, some who play, some who sing and some who do both of all various levels of competence. They meet regularly in a local pub and enjoy 'Open Mic' sessions followed by liquid refreshment and socialising. Singing and making music is known to stimulate many areas of the brain. The presentation was enhanced when two of the group entertained us with renditions of snatches of several of the songs they regularly sing.

#### **6. CABINZ Project**

Paul Ridley gave details of the Project run by a Community Group based in Cheshire. They use and supply

off-cuts of materials, from suppliers and manufacturers, which would otherwise be disposed of and could end up in landfill. Due to the cost of separating materials the waste cannot be recycled. Samples of some of the materials were distributed among the audience. Some factories have vast tonnage of waste materials including plastics, fibreglass, resins, etc. which will not degrade but could be used for Shed projects. CABINZ hope to work with Men's Sheds and will supply nationwide.

It was suggested that several Sheds in an area could share a load to reduce transport costs.

For more info, contact Paul Ridley, founder, Cabinz Project [cabinznet@gmail.com](mailto:cabinznet@gmail.com)

Phone +44 1244 315587 or mob. +44 07432 315470

Blog & info. [www.Cabinz.net](http://www.Cabinz.net)

## **7. Insurance (Export and General) – Dr. John Mitchell**

Within the Men's Shed organisation there are no mandatory requirements as there are (usually) no employees. Minimum insurance requirement should cover Public Liability and equipment.

Premiums should reflect the small number of men and the limited hours of operation.

The product is tailored for Men's Sheds, so Sheds should 'Come and talk to them' if seeking cover.

## **8. The meeting then had a 45 minute break**

During the break there were 4 discussion areas set up for newer members to talk to experienced members about various subjects. This was based on a suggestion made by Poole Men's Shed after the last meeting.

As a result we will be calling these areas "Poole Tables" for future reference.

### **The Areas Covered were:**

**Computing / Software / Websites**

**Becoming a CIO / Being a Trustee**

**Planning and Dealing with Local Authorities**

**Insurance and general Running a Shed issues**

## **9. Romsey Men's Shed – Layout**

Romsey Men's Shed are seeking advice about layout in the new Shed. Some discussion resulted in several suggestions about how to plan a new shed including the provision of workstations and social areas.

Questions were raised about the mixing of wood and metal projects and the impact of noise within the Shed and on neighbours. No conclusions were reached and it was suggested that request for advice should be placed on the Forum site. A short presentation with layout diagrams is attached.

## **10. A.O.B.**

Feedback from Discussion Tables. Steve Redrup asked if they were a useful addition to Regional Meetings; should they continue, do we need more tables to cover more subjects?

The general agreement was that they were a useful addition, but it would be useful for the people offering advice for the questions to be available before the meeting so that they could prepare if necessary.

Delegates wishing to raise subjects for forthcoming meetings should post on the Forum or notify the Chairman.

Someone asked what accounts details are required when applying for CIO (Charity Incorporated Organisation) status. Some suggestions were offered from the floor. It was asked if Sheds could share

resources regarding CIO application and accounting on the Forum.

Alton Men's Shed asked about their need for a 'Business Plan' and it was agreed that it is good to prepare a plan in order to establish direction for an organisation.

Some discussion about whether Charity Tax relief such as 'Just Giving' was worthwhile considering the low value of subscriptions and most donations.

Suggestion for inclusion in next meeting agenda; Discuss' Sponsorship and how to get it'.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

Next SMSN Meeting will be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

We have no suggested venue at present, so any shed that would like to host the next meeting, please contact Steve Redrup (SMSN Co-ordinator).

#### **12. Meeting Closed at 3:30 pm**