



Southern Men's Shed Network

Monday 8th October 2018

www.smsn.org.uk

Hosted by Havant Men's Sheds

(Venue: 43 Fraser Road, Havant, PO9 3EJ)

Present: (approx 38 in total)

Apologies: Lois Prior (I.O.W.), Geoff Collett (Southbourne)

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

1. Welcome and Introduction

Stephen Redrup welcomed everyone to the Havant Scout Hut where we were guests of the Havant Men's Shed. He thanked the Havant Shed for setting up the event and providing food & refreshments and also Simon Ferré for offering to take notes during the meeting.

Steve also highlighted that the hosting shed takes on the cost of the room and refreshments and therefore rely upon the donations made at the meeting, so please give generously.

Stephen also welcomed Kensington and Chelsea Mind, who gave a brief introduction to their motives for wishing to be present at our meeting. In brief they have money to set up some Men's Sheds in the Kensington and Chelsea area and wanted to get a better understanding of the philosophy and practicalities of Men's Sheds.

2. Welcome to Havant Men's Shed

Presentation on Havant Shed by Steve Sadler (Havant Chair).

Steve Sadler gave a general update of the progress at Havant Shed since the last time they hosted the Network meeting.

3. General Shed News/Updates

Portsea – Portsea Shed didn't get their lease renewed by the church they were in. They've approached the Dockyard to see if they can have a building there. They may get to use a building that has been unused since 1986. This process is ongoing with architects and planners involved. It is a grade 1 listed building which adds additional complications.

Hayling Island – Hayling Island Men's Shed has just gained planning permission to build their shed.

4. UKMSA News (Kookie)

Shed Fest. There is money available to provide cooking classes to members or public. Kids into electronics and programming would like to work with Shed members. NEC in Birmingham had an exhibition of various crafts and hobbies.

Car Fest: Excellent weekend.

Some Job Centres are referring their clients to the sheds so they can sign them off at 6 weeks or months, but sheds have to decide to say no to this if they wish. The Job Centre shouldn't be leaning on sheds like this. Some general discussion centred round this point. The general agreement is that Men's Sheds are caring but not carers.

5. Laura Winkley – Membership and Support Officer for UKMSA.

Copy of the Presentation is available on Website

UK Men's Shed Association. There are 470 sheds open in the UK. 133 sheds on the website (but believed to be nearer 175) that are in the process of opening up. A rough calculation would estimate around about 11,000 members. Some sheds run by large organisations aren't as sustainable as the grass roots sheds that aren't. ToolCycle (on UKMSA Website) is available for sharing resources and tools. Membership to the UKMSA is currently £24 per year. There are procedures being put in place to send out reminders to Sheds to ask for these payments when required (this has not been available up to now).

Question on UKMSA providing insurance as part of membership: Insurance is a hard thing to provide on a national basis as every shed is different in size, number of members and risks depending on what activities they carry out. One member talked about a charity called Remap and their blanket insurance. It is believed that this doesn't work as well in Men's Sheds. Various partnerships being worked on but no point detailing these until finalised.

Men's Shed forums are available on the UKMSA Website.

Laura asked for feedback on the UKMSA.

6. Half-Time break and discussion on topics of concern/interest

7. Shed Membership Fees – Structure and Level (Discussion Lead by Christchurch)

Copy of the Presentation is available on Website

Les Mercer, Christchurch Men's Shed – Gave a short presentation to initiate a Discussion on Shed Membership.

Their building is being fitted out with an extra floor, and is large enough to fit three double-decker buses in. Their main concern is running costs. Fees have to be affordable, cover running costs, and be easy to administer. The fees must not be discriminatory to those on low income.

One question is: should those who attend more pay more. Some members don't even have a bank account, on low income, or on state pension and cannot afford the membership fees.

Havant Men's Shed - Low yearly fee of £24 per year. We have a pot to donate into when having tea or coffee,

but we also get tea and coffee supplied for free by local supermarkets, and we also get goods past their best before date donated by supermarkets that we then take a donation for from members to take what they need. This generates £50 per week or so. We couldn't survive just on membership subs alone, so we have to rely on fund raising etc.

Alton Men's Shed also has a pot for donations for the tea, coffee and biscuits, which they have to empty on a regular basis. Their membership fees were put up to £60 per year but they were getting too much money in so have reduced it to £30 per year.

Kookie - it basically comes down to how much will be spent on the rent, rates, utility bills, etc. so you can then work out how much that would be for x number of members.

Laura (UKMSA) says there should be large discounts on Council Tax, for example, as a Men's Shed.

Southbourne Men's Shed rent has just doubled. They charge £20 per year and £1 per visit, but this has just changed to pay £2 on their first visit per week only (so if they come 3 times a week it's still £2). This seems to be working well.

Several sheds get monetary donations from Supermarkets. Only one shed makes use of Gift Aid. The feedback received was helpful.

8. AOB

Question about email addresses: Do sheds set up email addresses for their shed contacts.

Steve Redrup is happy to show sheds how to set up a domain name and then set up email addresses with forwarding, and has also discussed how to set up a Google drive and subfolders that shed committee members / general members can access with appropriate permissions.

It was requested that Steve prepare a document with some of this information and techniques.

Kingston and Chelsea Mind thanked all members for their warm welcome.

Question: Are there any other Men's Shed Networks along the South Coast? Maybe East Sussex.

The answer is: No. Not as far as we know. There are about 11 networks around the UK in total.

The SMSN Association is fairly flexible, although the coverage is quite substantial. Andover has said they'd be happy to host the next meeting, but this means that some sheds on the periphery may find it hard to get there.

Steve asked if attendees could please put their views across as to whether these meetings should continue how they have been, or if there are improvements or additional things you'd like to see before the next meeting. The next meeting will be after Christmas - this will be uploaded to the SMSN website to be included in the next newsletter.

9. Next SMSN Meeting

Monday 14th January 2019 (Provisional Date).

Andover Men's Shed has volunteered to Host the next meeting.

The date is provisionally set for the 14th Jan but this will be confirmed nearer the time when a hall booking has been made.

10. (3:30pm) Meeting closed.

The meeting closed with Steve giving "Thanks" to Havant Shed for hosting.