



Southern Men's Shed Network

Monday 8th April 2019

www.smsn.org.uk

Hosted by Colden Common Men's Sheds

(Venue: 154 Main Road, Colden Common. (SO21 1TJ))

Present: (approx 45 in total – Representing 17 Men's Sheds)

Graham Gowman (SMSN) chaired the meeting, Steve Redrup (SMSN) took meeting notes.

Please Note a correction to the January Minutes:

Hayling Island Shed. They have been given a 7yr lease on a plot of ~~Church of England~~ United Reformed Church land.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Welcome announcements and notices were given by Steve Redrup (Portsea).

Steve also explained that Graham Gowman of Nursling Shed, who is also a UKMSA Ambassador, will be helping him with the SMS Network and will chair meetings in future. Steve will still continue to look after the technical side (e.g. Website, Forum, Meeting Notices, and Newsletter etc.).

2. Welcome to Colden Common Men's Shed

Background on Colden Common Shed by a number of Shed Officers.

Adrian Kelly (Chair), Peter Eales (Technical), Steve Badham (Secretary), John Simpson (Treasurer)

Adrian began by giving some background to the early stages of the Colden Common Shed.

They had looked at the setup at Gosport Shed and decided to email the village about the possibility of setting up a Men's Shed in Colden Common Village. As a result of this, they were contacted by the local Vicar with the offer of some space on which they could build the men's shed. BY 2015 they had formed a group and found various funding, giving them a potential budget of £35,000. At first they considered a single large building, but were told that this would immediately invoke Control Regulations. However, buildings less than 30 M² are not subject to control regulations.

The final decision was to build 3 smaller buildings on a floating platform allowing for future disassembly and removal, should the need arise. The total area is 86 M² made up of 3 buildings (Workshop, Store and Common Room / Tea Room). The buildings are made from prefabricated log cabin designs (Tiger Sheds) with 4 ft x 2 ft Skylights.

(A copy of Colden Common's Presentation is available on the "Meetings Documents" Page of the smsn.org.uk website).

Some discussion then arose regarding the pros/cons of having a separate Tea Room / Common Area. The general consensus seeming to be that a separate room worked best (space allowing).

There was then some questions and discussion regarding how funding was achieved.

For Colden Common this was mostly from various local organisations (national ones were more difficult and less accommodating to local, non-charity initiatives). However, it was mentioned that if you approach both the National Lottery and the Post Code Lottery with requests for funding below £10,000 it was generally much easier and quicker than attempts for larger amounts.

At the end of Colden Common's Presentation, a Poem (By Dennis Dawes) was read out giving an insight to the history of the shed's creation. (Copy available on the "Meetings Documents" Page of the smsn.org.uk website)

3. General Shed News/Updates

The meeting was given to the floor for any updates from Shed activities.

Nursling Shed. Graham Gowman informed the meeting that Nursling now have some premises with plenty of space but a lot of clearing necessary.

Littlehampton Shed informed the meeting that they have, unfortunately, been evicted from their original site, but are hopeful of some good news soon.

Hayling Island Shed. They have a 7yr lease for their site. They now have a base laid and a Steel Framed shed on order with delivery expected in the next 3 weeks.

Christchurch Shed. Currently, lease discussions in progress.

Poole Shed. Have had a 14 month wait on receiving their promised funding. However, they have now obtained the funding and just paid the deposit for their shed. Lease negotiations are still in progress.

4. UKMSA News – Brian Cooke (Kookie)

Men's sheds are becoming more known about. As a result they are starting to become a target for thieves. Bedford Men's Shed recently had a break-in with a loss of approximately £2,000.

Fund Raising. Kookie talked about the difficulties that sheds have in finding funding. He mentioned a company called The Unity Funding Company which have offered to run free courses for the UKMSA. Anyone interested, please Contact Kookie.

The meeting was reminded of the upcoming Weald and Downland Museum Event during the early May Bank Holiday (5th and 6th May). At least 4 Sheds will be exhibiting. Last minute plans are being made, so any shed wanting to contribute need to make contact quickly. The museum will allow displays free of charge (with camping space if required – also free, but first come first served). There will also be a number of complimentary armbands for anyone wanting to visit (again contact Kookie).

Kookie also mentioned the creation of a Display Board being developed as part of a promotion pack being assembled for sheds and ambassadors to use. A very basic prototype was on display.

Kookie also asked sheds that are on the UKMSA Website, please check and update your shed details please.

5. Intro and Update on UKMSA Ambassador Program (Kate Gordon – UKMSA National Shed Development Manager)

Kate joined UKMSA in Oct 2018 as Shed Development Manager. She gave a presentation covering several aspects, including current members of the UKMSA, its Board of Trustees and Operational Team. Kate also gave some information on the history and growth of Men's Shed in the

UK together with some of the summary findings of the Impact Survey compiled recently.

Kate went on to outline some of the services and initiatives current under way: -

- National Shed Development Volunteer Network
- Shed Leadership Programme
- Property Program
- Regional Shed Network Development
- Health & Wellbeing Programme
- ShedFest 2019 (possible North and South Events)
- Marketing & Communications Strategy Development
- Technical Support Programme

For more details, please see the copy of Kate's Presentation, which is available on the "Meetings Documents" Page of the smsn.org.uk website.

6. Men's Health Discussion (David Whetton - PCUK)

David Whetton, from Prostate Cancer UK, gave a presentation on the health problems associated with Prostate Cancer. This also included some explanations about the prostate, statistics, symptoms and various diagnostic procedures which can be sought through your G.P.

David's full presentation is normally about an hour. Due to the busy agenda, David only had about 20 minutes to give a condensed version, which proved to be quite amusing and entertaining given the nature of the topic.

For more details, please see the full copy of David's Presentation, which is available on the "Meetings Documents" Page of the smsn.org.uk website.

7. Half-Time break and a chance to talk to other members.

There was a 30 minute break for members to talk and share with each other. David Whetton also had various leaflets and was available for further questions.

8. Shed in a Bus project (Mike Brading - Basingstoke Men's Shed)

Copy of Mike's Presentation is available on the Website

on the "Meetings Documents" Page of the smsn.org.uk

Mike Brading gave an outline of a current project which aims to create a mobile Men's Shed in a double-decker bus, which can visit surrounding communities which are too far for people to visit the main Basingstoke Shed. The main idea being to operate similarly to a Mobile Library (e.g. visiting specific communities on specific days). This can also be used to gauge local interest with a view to helping to establish permanent sheds.

It was also thought that there could be other uses, such as DIY Training Courses, Practical education in schools, Promotional events etc.

For further details,, please see the full presentation on the website.

9. Next SMSN Meeting

Members of **Sandown Aviation Museum Shed** have offered to act as hosts.

Proposed date Tuesday 9th July.

Because of the travelling involved, they are planning to make this more of an event than a meeting, giving sheds on the island a chance to meet and mingle with shedders from the mainland.

So the invitation will be open to all shedders who are interested and not just those attending the Network Meeting.

The Aviation Museum has offered free access to the museum and there is planned entertainment from the I.O.W. Music Men's Sheds. Other possibilities include visiting both the Sandown Aviation Shed and the Sandown Engineering Shed and maybe a BBQ,

At present, the approximate cost to take a car and 5 passengers across to the island for the day is about £60. However, approaches will be made to Wight Link and Red Funnel to try and obtain discounts.

The proposal was put to the meeting, with a sufficient number indicating interest and so the proposal was accepted.

Further details will be made available in due course.

10. AOB

The recurring interest in Shed Insurance was raised again, with a number of updates.

The UKMSA are still attempting to negotiate with Insurance Companies by issuing an Invitation to Tender. Problems still seem to be occurring with the negative perception Insurers have of the risks associated with Men's Sheds. The history of claims, however, seem to show that Shed's are a low risk. There appears to have been no claims for injuries and the only claims made to date are related to break-ins.

Another aspect was raised regarding sheds which share premises / site with other organisations (e.g. community centres, Age Concern etc.). It would appear that once a shed becomes a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), it must have its own insurance (Southbourne Shed stated that this happened to them).

A question was raised about Liability when a disclaimer was part of membership.

It was generally accepted that Disclaimers cannot really negate Liability and Responsibility.

A question was also asked about the availability of Automated UKMSA Membership Renewal.

Kate Gordon stated that this was not currently available but was work in-progress.

11.(3:25pm) Meeting closed.

The meeting closed with Graham giving "Thanks" to Colden Common Shed for hosting, with a special Thank You to the people who provided the catering and thanked everyone for attending.