



Southern Men's Shed Network

Monday 3rd February 2020

www.smsn.org.uk

Hosted by Fareham Men's Shed

(Venue: South Titchfield Festival Theatre, 73 St Margaret's Lane, Titchfield (PO14 4BG))

Present: (over 40 in total)

Apologies: None

Graham Gowman (SMSN) chaired the meeting, Milton Hewins (Fareham) took the meeting notes.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Welcome announcements and notices were given by Graham Gowman (Nursling).

The chairman (Graham Gowman) opened the meeting at 12:35 and welcomed everyone.

He thanked the Fareham Men's Shed (FMS) for hosting the meeting and for their hospitality.

2. Fareham Men's Shed Story

Background on the birth and creation of the Fareham Men's Shed.

Rod Parker (FMS) gave a brief presentation of Fareham Men's Shed from its very early days with just four interested people to the current day which now enjoys a full active committee and a membership of 61 people.

Chris Nixon (FMS) followed on and went through the various stages of the development of the workshop and the recreation area. He informed the meeting that 95% of the work to create the current facility was carried out by members, backed up by financial assistance from local & county authorities and local businesses.

He went on to inform the meeting of various projects undertaken by FMS, supporting local schools, charities, local people and organisations.

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

3. General Shed News/Updates

The Chairman then covered general 'Shed News' and requested members from across the various Sheds to post to the SMS website forum, their experiences on starting and developing their Sheds. He went on to say that sharing information would very generally be a benefit to members especially those who are just starting out.

Graham then threw the meeting open for questions.

Much discussion took place around the use of 3 'D' printers its benefits, set up and running costs, maintenance and ease of use. Chris Nixon (FMS) is happy to advise members in detail on this aspects.

There was also a request to post to the SMSN website any surplus tools, machines and equipment which could be donated to 'Sheds' just starting out.

Another member also requested the membership to post their successful money spinning ideas to the SMSN website.

Off cuts of 'Free Wood' are always available from building sites and timber yards and the guys on these sites are only too eager to give the wood away as this helps to dispose of unwanted wood which helps their 'Green' stats.

NOTE: Viewing the contents of the SMSN (www.smsn.org.uk) Forum does not require registration but to post new content, you must register on the forum to gain update rights. Also, any new posts will automatically be included in the weekly newsletter which is sent to all emailing list subscribers (currently over 120).

4. Health & Safety, Matters (Graham Gowman)

The chairman emphasised the importance of Health & Safety in running our 'Sheds' and encouraged members to regularly carry out risk assessments on tools and machines. He also advised of the necessity of risk assessments when recruiting new members to ensure their suitability. He went on to say "We care, but we are not carers" and have a responsibility to keep all our members safe.

5. UKMSA News – Update from Brian Cooke

Updates from National Men's Shed Committee: Brian Cooke advised on several dates for our Dairies: -

National Shed Fest- 06/07/20 – More details to be available on the www.ukmsa.org.uk website
IOW Shed Fest- 07/07/20 – Further details will be available on the www.smsn.org.uk website in due course.
Unity Festival of re-cycling 19/09/20- Andover.

Brian reported the potential of organising a Regional Shed Fest, with the possibility of obtaining a lottery grant and has asked members to send him ideas.

He also requested an update from all the 'Sheds' to send in their latest membership numbers.

He further mentioned that there was funding still available from 'Unity'

Brian also mentioned he was working with a solicitor to draw up a template for a Codicil for members to use, should they wish to leave a legacy to their local 'Shed'.

6. Ideas and suggestions from Members of the Fareham Men's Shed.

Stripping for profit: Rod Parker talked about encouraging members to collect and donate any scrap metal to their Shed as collectively this was a good source of income. FMS currently make money from obtaining various off cuts of cable and stripping the insulation and selling the resulting copper. Other metals can also be recycled for money including different forms of aluminium.

A guide to obtaining funding: Chris Hodgson went through briefly on how FMS obtained grants / funding and donations from various sources (see presentation slide)

How we plink our Plonks: Chris Nixon enthusiastically demonstrated a simple type of musical instrument made out of scrap materials which benefit our Autism community. He also showed some more decorative items which could actually be sold to raise funds.

E-bay Sales: Richard Bunce gave examples of how FMS benefits from garage clearances from refurbishing items and selling on e-bay. He went on to say items which are sometimes considered as 'Junk' are collectable items to others and yield the most profit.

Social Events: Tony Crane- FMS social secretary gave many examples of our successful social events and welcomed members from across the region to join our events (regularly posted on the FMS Website).

Should anyone need more details on the above, please contact the relevant person at FMS

7. AOB

Lois Prior (from Age UK - IOW) provided details of the next IOW Shed Fest to be held on July 7th 2020.

There was a suggestion that should members wish to attend from the mainland, to liaise through the SMSN Forum, as a sixteen seater coach is available for transport.

Lois also presented seven shed images from a local IOW cartoonist who has given permission to all our 'Sheds' to use these images in any way they wish. Steve Redrup said he would make them available through the SMSN website.

Brian Cooke agreed to try and get discounts, again, from some of the IOW Ferry Companies.

8. Next SMSN Meeting

Date of the Next Meeting is yet to be confirmed (probably around the beginning of May).

Any shed wishing to volunteer to host a meeting, please contact Steve Redrup or Graham Gowman.

9. (3:25pm) Meeting closed.

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