



Southern Men's Shed Network

Tuesday 1st August 2023

www.smsn.org.uk

Hosted by Petersfield Men's Shed

(Venue: 16 Heath Rd, Petersfield GU31 4DU)

Present: (approx 20 from 9 sheds)

Apologies: Non Received

Steve Redrup (Portsea) chaired the meeting; Gerald Johnson (Hayling Island) took the meeting notes.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The chair (Steve Redrup) opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the meeting with a special welcome to **Matt Ford**, Community Development Officer for Royal British Legion.

He also listed the apologies received (none) and pointed out the usual facilities and safety exits..

He then thanked the Petersfield Men's Shed (PMS) for hosting the meeting and for their hospitality.

2. Introduction to Petersfield Men's Shed

Steven Watts, Chairman, began welcoming everybody to the best town in Hampshire.

He introduced Trevor Nichols (treasurer), Neil Slatter, (past secretary and founding member) and Nick Broom (vice chair) .

Just over 3 years ago about 10 guys got together as a result of emails sent out and a promotional event on Saturday morning in Petersfield market square. Some initial funding from Age Concern helped to get going and a search for premises began as did regular zoom meetings.

These meetings later moved to a local pub and a membership of £10 pa was agreed to start raising funds.

In May, registered for charity status as a CIO which was granted. Grants totalling £22½K from various sources helped to swell the funds.

PMS occupies a house and 2 sheds at 16 Heath Rd under a licence from East Hampshire Council at a cost of £1 pa.

It was officially opened on the 4th of March by Patricia Ide, wife of the late John Ide one of the founding members.

The Shed is now called 'The John Ide Shed'.

Membership has grown to 82 and the Shed is open 5 days a week 10am – 4pm and from the 5th of August will open Saturday 10am - 1pm. Activities in the house vary, mainly clean ones and they want to adopt an open drop in approach to the day.

3. Shed News / Updates

Alton M S

Gordon Anderson - Alton Men's Shed started 7 years ago and after one or two false starts has finally found a new location. We have formed a partnership with Dementia Friendly Alton and now share a building called Edgar Hall, in Anstey Park, Anstey Lane.

Edgar Hall is well equipped with a practical kitchen, spacious with a kitchen, spacious men's & lady's toilets, disabled toilet, and smaller rooms for "chill out" moments. The Shed now has a workshop space that accommodates improved woodworking facilities, and will allow the introduction of metal working, vehicle maintenance, craft work, an IT suite, and anything else that the members desire. We are open Monday – Friday from 9am. Membership is now 28.

Andover M S

Brian Cooke – The Shed is now located in the main shopping centre at discounted costs. Has been fitted out with benches but occupancy is only till October at the moment.

Havant M S

Tony Dale – Still only paying a peppercorn rent but utilities are going up. Membership continues to grow as does requests for community projects.

Bitterne M S

Keith Marsh – Located in grounds of Bitterne Parish Church. 5 years ago in a small unit 8x15 ft shed. With a grant bought an anti-vandal unit 3 years ago. Open 3 days a week Tuesday – Thursday 9.30 -12 and now have 30 members at present.

Hayling Island M S

Chris Dean – Chairman since AGM in February. The Shed that was erected in 2019 continues to evolve. Still awaiting a lease that was due to start in 2019. Storage always a problem. Open 5 days a week, Friday group (no work day, only tea and chat) known as the COBRA group, always putting the concerns of the world, and Shed, to rights, attendance increases by the week. Membership of paid members is 50 but have between 60 – 70 names on the list.

4. Royal British Legion – Community Development (Matt Ford)

Matt Ford, Community Development and Support for the British Legion gave a talk on the work and support of the Legion's 220 branches in the UK. The video presentations showed the support offered to both serving and retired military personnel and their families.

He said the Legion is keen to work with Men's Sheds in the coming future on how the two organisations could support each other and to this end he has had talks with UKMSA's CO, Charlie Bethal, attended ShedFEST last month, as well as talks with the Northern Shed movement.

Main reason for liaising with Men's Sheds is to help increase awareness of range of people which the RBL support. With that in mind, Matt requested that their contact poster be made available with the Men's Sheds ([attached below](#)).

45 minute lunch break was taken at 12.20pm with Hot Dog or Cheese/tomato rolls for a donation of £2.50 courtesy of Graham Gowman.

5. Updates from UKMSA Ambassadors.

Graham Gowman - felt that the public offerings/information on Men's Sheds is poor and limited. The UKMSA website and Facebook and should be improved. Even suggested there should be a Shed song.

Gerry Johnson – reported this year's ShedFEST in Worcester in July with approximately 300 attending. Our partners, Ronseal, Axminster, Metal Craft, Tite-Fix and Onduline were in attendance. Minutes of UKMSA's AGM have yet to be published.

(Post meeting) There is a short report in Shoulder2Shoulder newsletter emailed out on the 2nd of August.

GJ also reported that a 'Soft Launch' of UKMSA's new website has taken place. Both GG and GJ have emailed their dissatisfaction on the site, GG referring to the colours used which makes reading difficult and GJ commenting of 'Find a Shed' page which has removed the facility of entering a location search and replaced with a route planner on how to get to a Shed, IF you have able to find it in the first place.

6. Proposal for Future Network Meetings (Gerry Johnson)

GJ - began with a short presentation reminding us when and why network meetings started 7½ years ago with 17 Sheds registering, how often, and the format of the meetings would take, and where we are now.

He pointed out that the area covered had widened and there were now 49 Sheds registered and the area.

A breakdown of the location of those 49 showed the following: I O W = 8, Dorset = 5, West Sussex = 7, East Sussex = 1, Surrey = 4, which left only 24 Hampshire Sheds.

A recent count of Hampshire Sheds shows a total of 57 operating Sheds which means we are not communicating with 33 of them. 47 of the 57 are UKMSA registered.

GJ went on to say this proposal was driven mainly by the location of our meetings which has a knock on effect on attendance. (e.g. post meeting only 9 Sheds present today)

There were other issues that needed to be sorted and some of these may come out discussing the proposal which was: -

- To hold only 2 Meetings ta year.
- The location of the meetings to be split. 1 in the northern part of the county and the second in the southern half. A reasonable line across the county could be north and south of Petersfield.

The proposal was not voted on and a discussion followed. One suggestion could zoom meetings work?

Whilst the format was not mentioned, it was thought agenda items needed to be interesting that would encourage Sheds to attend.

SR agreed and it was his biggest headache when calling meetings and constantly asks for ideas from yourselves without any result.

It was agreed we should contact all the Hampshire Sheds with a newsletter in the form of a survey questionnaire both introducing ourselves to those 33 sheds that don't know about us and the future of further meetings.

This was to be left to SR GG GJ to compose with Tony Dale & Steve Sadler (Havant) Brian Cooke (Andover) and Steven Watts (Petersfield) offering to provide a think-tank to offer suggestions which would help in formulating an appropriate set of survey questions.

7. AOB

- Steve Redrup mentioned a recent contact from Solent NHS Trust that have a Community [Engagement and Experience Team](#).

In April 2021 they launched [Alongside Communities](#) - Solent approach to engagement and inclusion.

They want to better understand what really matters most to local people about their local community and mental health trust, and how they can work with the communities to achieve their goals.

They now run a [community partners programme](#) , made up of charities, social enterprises, community groups, patient representatives and NHS representatives, with knowledge, skills and expertise of local communities and who can support them in improving patient experiences and reducing health inequalities for our local areas. Bitterne Men's Shed are already one of their community partners and gave a brief summary of their involvement.

It was suggested that they could give a presentation at in a future meeting

Anyone interested in getting involved and also becoming a community partner (in the Hampshire Area) can make the following contact: -

Trust Headquarters
Highpoint Venue,
Bursledon Rd,
Southampton
SO19 8BR
Janene Goddard
Community Engagement Facilitator



Email – janene.goddard@solent.nhs.uk
Tel – 07788 380001

- GJ – he said he had seen a presentation at ShedFEST on ‘Dementia and your Shed’ by a Dorset Ambassador. He felt this would be very useful information for Sheds to know on how a Shed deals with members who get diagnosed with Dementia and those with the diagnosis wishing to apply for membership. He now has this presentation and would be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- Brian Cooke – explained next year there was to be an event celebrating Armed Forces Day covering 2 days in Andover. He suggested it could also be a SMSN ShedFEST involving all Sheds.

8. Next SMSN Meeting

Date of the Next Meeting is yet to be confirmed.

It is hoped that the meeting will be in around late November (depending upon the results of the Survey mentioned earlier).

9. (2:20pm) Meeting closed.

SR said at the present time, there was no decision when or where the next SMSN meeting was to be held. He closed the meeting thanking everybody who had attended, and for Petersfield for hosting today’s meeting and GG for organising lunch. Meeting closed at 2.20pm

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).

Anyone can subscribe (Newsletter, Meeting Notices & General Notices) through our website (www.smsn.org.uk)

There are a few posters shown during the meeting which may be of some interest.

In particular, there is one from RBL which you may like to post on your shed Notice Board giving details of how anyone requiring support may contact the Royal British Legion service.

The second poster “Men’s Health & Wellbeing Event 2023” is being organised by a new initiative of the Solent NHS Trust and invites sheds to attend but also to contact them about having stalls at the event.

How to get support for

Members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families.
Dependants and carers of those serving or ex-serving



Call 0808 802 8080
8am to 8pm, 7 days a week



Online chat
rbl.org.uk



Republic of Ireland
1 800 992 294
(free)

Overseas
+44 (0) 20 3376 8080
(full rate)

info@britishlegion.org.uk



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

MEN'S HEALTH & WELLBEING EVENT 2023

Join us for a free event featuring football and cricket and learn about health and wellbeing services available to men in your area. All are welcome.

Date

30 SEP
11am - 4pm

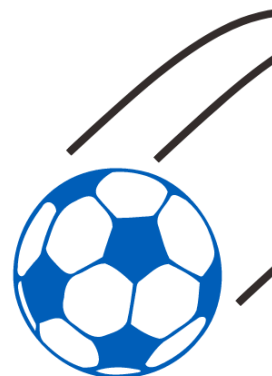
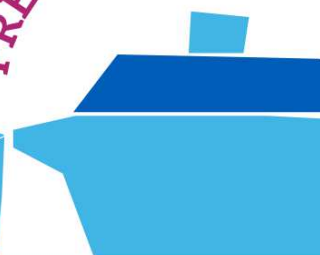
Cricket | Football | Live Music
| Food

Place

HOGLANDS PARK
Southampton, SO14 1NH

For more information email
CEET@solent.nhs.uk

FREE ENTRY!



**SAINTS
FOUNDATION**

WICKETZ

