

SHOULDER to SHOULDER

Newsletter 037 | December 2017



CONGRATULATIONS DALBEATTIE MEN'S SHED

Awarded UK Men's Sheds Association's Shed of the Year



For this year's Shed of the Year award, we asked for nominations for Men's Sheds who make inspiring contributions to their local communities. We got some great nominations, with all of them showing just what brilliant assets Sheds are to the communities that surround them, and the men that have one nearby to attend. However, the submission from Dalbeattie Men's Shed in Dumfries and Galloway blew us away.

You can read more about them and see why they won on the next page.

Throughout the next year, you'll hear more about the Dalbeattie Sheddors and what they've been up to as we document their twelve months as Shed of the Year in Shoulder to Shoulder. We recently paired them up with an organisation who want a trebuchet built as part of a Children in Need project, an opportunity

that they've taken on with utmost enthusiasm, so we'll keep you up to date with their progress on that too.

We know you'll all join us in congratulating the amazing Dalbeattie Sheddors for their well deserved award of Shed of the Year. Their prizes are on the way to them and include a wonderful, hand crafted celebratory gift from last year's winners at Bourton-on-the-Water Men in Sheds.

INSPIRING DALBEATTIE

Dalbeattie Men's Shed awarded Shed of the Year for inspiring community contribution.



Geoff and Geoff from Dalbeattie Men's Shed receiving a grant cheque

Dalbeattie Men's Shed is a 'bottom-up' Shed, formed late 2014 which found premises in March 2015. It is a member of UKMSA, SCVO, Age Scotland and Third Sector D&G. Its 38 active members meet twice per week in old factory premises, where four workshops have been developed to support woodworking, metalworking (including cycle and machine repair), picture framing and electronics.

In and around Dalbeattie the Shed is seen as a responsive, affordable, go-to place for the making and repair of obsolescent or bespoke items as evidenced by a continuous stream of commissions, including maintaining the town Christmas lights; engraving ceremonial plaques for the allotment society and woodland trust; restoring commemorative seats at local viewpoints, and furniture for infants and primary schools; building a lounge in Munches Care home, including a restored

pre-war mangle; restoring a 10-foot tall illuminated cat for the Town Civic week, and making a duplicate from scratch; making honours boards for local schools and sports clubs; framing pictures and qualification certificates for local clubs and businesses; rebuilding a trailer for Dalbeattie Star FC; making a Santa's sleigh for the Lions; making a Napoleonic era cartwheel for a local guesthouse, and much more.

Shedders also undertake family and private commissions ranging from small projects like clock and furniture repair, 3D printing a knob for an obsolescent cooker and repairing shepherd's crooks, to large projects like making bookcases and tables. The Shed has derived 60% of its income from donations, sales and commissions like those above, and from two coffee mornings a year where further sales are made.

This income has funded a significant proportion of the Shed development, and is the backbone of the Shed's sustainability.

Dalbeattie Shed is also central to the Men's Shed community in S.W. Scotland. The Dumfries & Galloway Men's Shed Network is based in Dalbeattie, which set up and runs a closed Facebook group supporting peer to peer discussions, and is a clearing house for the interchange and relocation of spare tools, equipment and materials within D&G. Safety, fundraising and taxation advice has also been given to Sheds outside D&G at Campbelltown, Dunoon and East Kilbride.

Community contribution is central to the Dalbeattie Shed ethos – in a Shed survey carried out within the last year, 94% of members at the Shed felt more connected and contributing to the local community since joining.

SHEDDERFAIR

2017

ROUND UP



Thank you to all of the 250+ Shedders that joined us at ShedderFair, as well as our sponsors, partners and demonstrators who helped to make it such a great day. We had a fantastic (and very busy) day at the Northampton Guildhall, which despite its size, we still managed to make look small.

For us, the best part of the day was getting to chat with so many of you, hear stories of your progress and see so many Shedders meeting, in many cases for the very first time.

It was really great to see Shedders come from near and far to enjoy a day together, learn new things, see new crafts and techniques, and generally have a good time.

We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did and enjoyed the spectacular venue. If you have a moment, please give your feedback by clicking the link below to our short feedback survey. It only takes a minute and will help us make the next events even better.

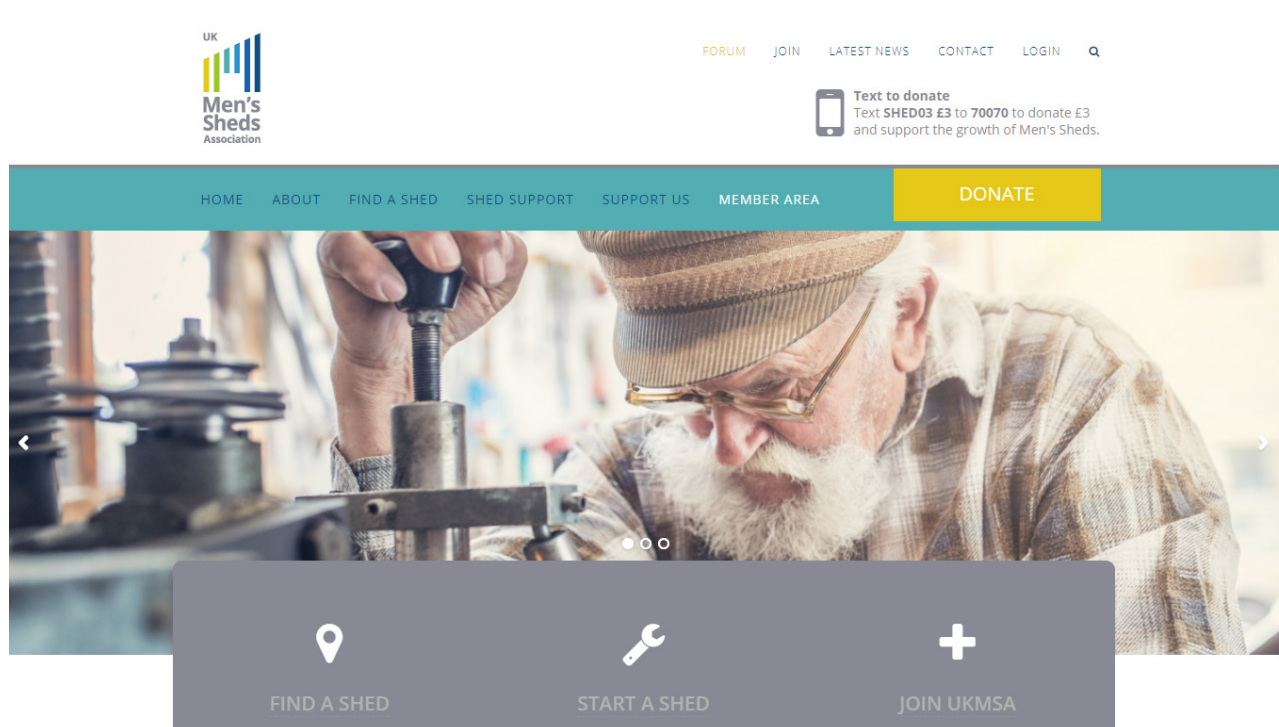
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ShedderFair2017/>

Before you go, our new friends at the Identity Store - who showed their amazing leather craft skills using the equipment they sell - want you to have 10% off your first order.

Use code **UKMSA10** at the checkout on the [Identity Store website](#).

HOW DO WE LOOK?

Our brand new website has launched and offers more support to Sheds



We've just launched a brand new website and a whole new look. The new site aims to be more user-friendly and includes lots of new tools to support Men's Sheds across the UK.

The site's new features include a [resource library](#), with over 40 new information resources, templates and examples to help set up and run a thriving Men's Shed.

As well as that, it has an online forum for Shedders to share knowledge, experience and make new friends from the Shed community; a dedicated tool exchange platform, called Toolcycle; and the ability to manage your membership online.

Individual Shedders and supporters are now able to join UKMSA and give their support to the Men's Sheds movement too.

Is your Shed a member?

Did you know that as a member of UK Men's Sheds Association, your Shed gets discounts with the following companies as well as unlimited access to our [resource library](#)? Log in to the online Member's Area for details.



If your Shed isn't a member yet, you can join [here](#).

Win an iPad!

We're giving one lucky Shedder a brand new Apple iPad for filling out our national Shedder survey. All you have to do to be in with a chance is fill out the survey at the link below. Once we reach 500 responses from UK Sheddors, we'll pick a winner at random. Please circulate to all of your fellow Sheddors and Shed leaders.

What's more, your responses will help us to shape our services for Men's Sheds across the UK.

It only takes five minutes.



<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UKMSAShedderSurvey2017/>

Entrants must be members of a Men's Shed in the UK, complete the survey in full and be contactable after the draw.

ARE YOU OUR NEXT VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR?

We're now recruiting volunteer Men's Sheds ambassadors across the UK. Could it be you?

Have you set up or been involved in setting up your Shed or others? Would you like to raise awareness of Men's Sheds and help others in their Shed journey?

The Volunteer Ambassador Programme launched at ShedderFair after a pilot phase of five months. Thanks to Paul Egerton, West Bletchley Shed; Brian Cooke, Andover Shed; Patrick Abrahams, Frome Shed; Eddy Flynn, Bootle Tool Shed; Doug Mizon, Halesworth Shed and Tony Smith-Crallan, Silvers Workshop, who have worked with us to help develop the programme and support 19 different Sheds and organisations to develop and thrive during this time.

UKMSA Volunteer Ambassadors are trained, supported and rewarded to provide advice and guidance to individuals and groups in the development of Sheds by sharing peer learning, resources and knowledge across the country. Ambassadors also promote Men's Sheds and UK Men's Sheds Association in their local area and occasionally at national and

regional events.

We are now actively looking for experienced Shed leaders or shedders who have been involved in the development of their shed to become part of the next wave of Ambassadors.

We'd particularly like to hear from anyone in the following areas who is interested in finding out more:

North East
North West
Norfolk
Cambridgeshire
Cumbria
Cornwall and Devon

If you're not in one of those areas, but you're interested in becoming a UKMSA volunteer ambassador, we'd still like to hear from you.

Please contact admin@ukmsa.org.uk

There's also more information on our website [here](#).



Happy Christmas

What a year it's been. The Men's Sheds movement has grown more rapidly than ever this year, with up to 14 Sheds a month popping up across the country. The movement now consists of over 500 Sheds either open or in development, and it doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

It's been a fantastic year for UK Men's Sheds Association. We've got a great new team, who are driven and dedicated to supporting as many Sheds as possible, and we've made some great improvements to the support we offer too; with a brand new website jam-packed with new resources, our ambitious new volunteer ambassador programme, and a dedicated Support Officer for new and existing Men's Sheds.

We're really excited for next year. We hope to support more Sheds than ever and hope that this time in 2018, we'll be reporting that there are over 700 Sheds in the UK.

For now though, we're gearing up to have a break for Christmas. We give our staff a week off over Christmas to enjoy time with their families and friends and come back fresh and ready for the new year.

We'll be away after Friday 22nd December and return Tuesday 2nd January. All enquiries between those times will be responded to as quickly as possible on our return.

We'll be back in January with a brand new edition of *Shoulder to Shoulder*. Please send us your stories, tips for fellow Sheds and high quality photos for us to share.

We hope you enjoy Christmas this year. For many it's a time of joy, but for some of us, it can be a particularly difficult time of year. We know Sheds can be a lifeline for many Shedders around Christmas time. If you're opening over Christmas and New Year, even just for a few hours for a cup of tea and a mince pie, don't forget to let your members know and perhaps extend the invite to others in the community too.

In case you missed it...

Congratulations to the 19 UK Sheds awarded funding from the Asda Foundation and Royal Voluntary Service through their Sheds grant scheme. There will be another round next year. We'll publish details in *Shoulder to Shoulder* as and when we have them.



December 2017 | N. 037

admin@ukmsa.org.uk | 0300 772 9626 | www.menssheds.org.uk

[@UKMensSheds](https://twitter.com/UKMensSheds) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/UKMensSheds) UK Men's Sheds Association