

SHOULDER to SHOULDER

Newsletter 054 | August 2019



National ShedFest 2019

It's nearly here! The UKMSA staff team are currently sorting out the last few details for this year's **ShedFest**, taking place **3rd September**, returning to **University of Worcester Arena** for the second year.

This year we are looking to serve both Sheddors and Leaders even more by **expanding the exhibition** and having **demonstrations on skills for Sheddors** running alongside the **development focussed workshops**. We are also excited to announce our **inspirational keynote speaker, Paul Sellers**. Paul describes himself as a lifelong amateur woodworker, but he is also considered one of the best known woodworking teachers in the world, his [Youtube](#) channel is the most subscribed to UK woodworking channel. We will also be joined by the very engaging **Chris Fisher RPT**—aka the blind woodturner, who will be doing demonstrations at the Axminster Tools & Machinery stand, as well as speaking at our evening Shed of the Year Awards.



We are very grateful to our ShedFest lunch sponsor—E&G Insurance who are sponsoring the lunch at ShedFest this year.

Our exhibition hall will be even bigger this year! We're excited to be welcoming back Metalcraft, QJS Marquetry, Ladbrook Insurance, Men's Health Forum, Royal Voluntary Service and Prostate Cancer among others. We also have new guests including E&G Insurance, International Boat Building Training College, Simon Clements, Bagpress, ThinkLaser, Creative Minds and more. We'll be announcing more guests on Facebook and Twitter this week.

This year we will also run a **competition for the best bird box and best turned item**, so get creating....

The criteria is that you need to be able to transport it there yourself, and it must fit through the door. It doesn't have to be something you've specifically made for ShedFest. We'd love to see some imaginative pieces at ShedFest!



There's still time to book your tickets and join us! Tickets are £5 per person for non-members, but **Sheddors from member Sheds can book FREE tickets using the code sent to member sheds**. [You can book tickets through Eventbrite here](#).

(Members still needing to check the code can find it [on our website here](#))

This year we will also be celebrating the achievements of Sheds at this year's inaugural Shed of the Year Awards and Dinner. We are excited to hear from our speaker Chris Fisher RPT, as well as recognising the achievements of Sheds. *Find out more about the awards on Page 3.*

Men's Sheds Insurance

Dear Sheds,

Last year I spoke at ShedFest regarding our intention to try to secure a 'preferred supplier' for insurance for Sheds. The idea being that we can try to negotiate a positive, value for money offer and support better informed decisions on the insurance you may require. This process is ongoing and I am pleased that we have a number of Sheddors with experience in this area helping. I wanted to update you on this progress and also make you aware of a concern raised by a number of Sheds.

I have been made aware of a flyer that has been sent to Sheds that appears to imply that we have given one company the remit to exclusively work with UK Men's Sheds. This is not the case.

If you have any questions then please contact Laura, our Membership & Support Officer, or myself and I hope to see you at ShedFest in Worcester.

Best wishes,

Charlie Bethel

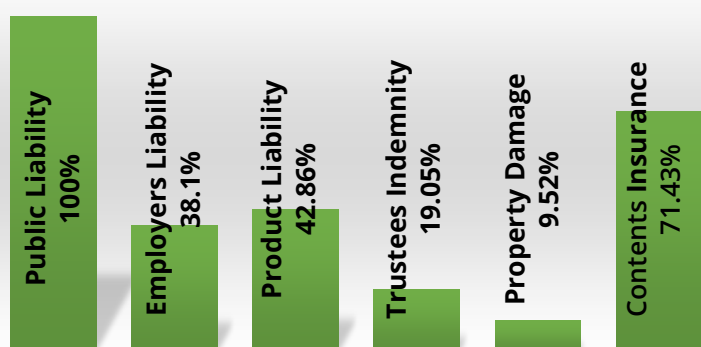
UKMSA Chief Officer

You can contact the UKMSA team, either through our website at menssheds.org.uk/contact, email admin@ukmsa.org.uk, or call 0300 772 9629.

Here are some quick facts about Men's Sheds insurance we learnt through our recent 2-minute survey...

*Facts are based on responses from a total of 25 completed surveys in May.

Types of insurance purchased by Men's Sheds



Premiums for Men's Sheds varied between £68 to £498!

We recommend shopping around, and making sure you're confident with the company or broker you're talking with, as well as finding the lowest price.

If you have a claim, one way to help is to make a list of contents in your Shed. Of Sheddors who responded—

65% of Sheds have made a list, including donations

10% have made a list of new items in their Sheds

25% of Sheds haven't made a list of items in their Shed

We have a guide to Men's Shed's insurance in our resource library for UKMSA Shed Members.
[Follow this link to find it on our website](#)

Shed of the YEAR 2019

Celebrating Sheds!

Nominations are now closed for Shed of the Year. It was a really tough decision for the judging panel to even shortlist applications, and we're looking forward to announcing the winners at the awards dinner.

Along with the 5 awards celebrating Men's Sheds, we are welcoming Chris Fisher RPT as our keynote speaker, which we are incredibly excited about. Chris is the first registered blind woodturner to be awarded the prestigious honour of being accepted on the Register of Professional Turners (RPT). You can find out more about Chris on his website here.



The awards, sponsored by Triton Tools, are taking place at 5pm at University of Worcester Arena. Tickets are £15 per head, and include the evening meal and the chance to hear some incredible Shed stories from across the UK, and discover more of Chris' inspiring story.

You can book tickets at shedoftheyear2019.eventbrite.co.uk. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

New governance page on our UKMSA website

We have recently added a new governance page to our website—menssheds.org.uk/member-area/governance/

Member Sheds can check this page to find minutes of AGM's from 2018 onwards, summaries of recent board meetings, and a copy of the UK Men's Sheds Association Constitution.

We have sent out notice to all of our member Sheds about our upcoming AGM, also taking place in Worcester as part of ShedFest on 3rd September.

Members can also see the notice online at menssheds.org.uk/2019-agm/

If you've not received your notice, please check your spam email.

Don't forget to add admin@ukmsa.org.uk to your safe list to ensure emails reach you.

If still can't find the email, please contact us to make sure we have your most up to date contact details.

Not a member? There are many great benefits to being a member Shed. Visit menssheds.org.uk/join, or contact our Membership & Support Officer, Laura Winkley, on email admin@ukmsa.org.uk.

News & Notices!

We're sorry this is a very short newsletter, the team are currently a hive of activity preparing for ShedFest, where we are hoping to meet many of you in Worcester.

Our exciting news is that the UKMSA Staff team is set to expand—we have interviews taking place in the coming week for a NEW Digital Communications Role, along with maternity cover for our Membership & Support Officer, Laura Winkley.

We hope to share news and introduce you to the new team members with you in a future *Shoulder to Shoulder*.

We're looking forward to seeing what Creative Minds have in store at ShedFest—they've asked anyone coming to bring plastic milk bottles with them for their interactive stand, so if you have any, please bring them with you.



Do you receive a pension yet?

ITN Productions are producing a two-part documentary about savings and pensions for Channel 5. Presented by Michael Buerk, the series will look at some of the biggest social questions facing us all. The programme will include new statistics about pensions in the UK and voices from financial experts.

As part of the series they are looking for people who have previously had issues with their pensions or who are struggling financially in their pension years.

If you'd like to get involved with the programme, please contact Laura Winkley, admin@ukmsa.org.uk, who can put you in touch with the producers.

If you have an article to include in our next edition of *Shoulder to Shoulder*, please send it to admin@ukmsa.org.uk.

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

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