

SHOULDER to SHOULDER

Newsletter 055 | November 2019



National ShedFest 2019

We would like to thank everyone who came to ShedFest who made the event such a memorable event. Once again the event grew with more Sheddors joining us, with over 290 registered before the event and more came on the day.

We took over even more exhibition space with exhibitors and demonstrations from craft and tool organisations, together with suppliers and the third sector. We had an incredible range from the West Mercia Police Force and St John Ambulance to Insurance brokers, and health organisations to 3D printers and boat making!

Special thanks to our sponsors and speakers at the various workshops which were both informative and encouraged considerable debate in areas that are important to Sheds. We really tried this year to make a better offering for Sheddors and not just Shed Leaders and I think we are well on our way to achieving this. Particularly inspirational were the two keynote speakers. Paul Sellers in the morning left the room wanting more as he talked of his journey in life and the impact of his work and indeed the Shed movement. At the National Awards the keynote speaker was Chris Fisher RPT, who delivered another inspiration speech. His journey as the first and only Blind Turner recognised by the Worshipful Company of Turners touched everyone in the room and. Again he drew great parallels to the work Sheds undertake.

During ShedFest we ran the first National Shed BirdBox and Turned Item competition. The judges were spoilt for choice and pictured are the two stunning winning pieces. The Best Turned Item (featured right) was lovingly crafted by Eugene Byrne, from Bromsgrove Men in Sheds, and the Best Birdbox (featured below) was created by Terry Craddock from The Repair Shed, Hemel Hempstead. Do you have what it takes for next year's competitions?



As you may know, this year we expanded the Shed of the Year Awards in response to your feedback that we should recognise more. This was a tremendous success and a big thank you to Triton Tools who sponsored the whole event. We also had other awards supported by Export and General Insurance, Ronseal, Royal Voluntary Service and Triton.

For the full list of Sheds recognised for their contribution to the Shed movement, and the winners, turn to Page 3.

Overall we hope everyone came away with new connections, new ideas and are inspired by the work you all do in Sheds. We are certainly inspired to build on this event for the future.

Looking forward—pencil in the 6th July 2020 for the next National ShedFest in Worcester and we are currently in discussions to provide a second ShedFest further north (fingers crossed).

Charlie Bethel, UKMSA Chief Officer

The UKMSA team is growing!

The UKMSA team of trustees and staff are excited to have welcomed two new members to the team this month to join Charlie, Kate and Laura.

Leo Pswarayi has joined as our new **Digital Communications Officer**. We thought we'd let Leo introduce himself—

"Hello! I have two loves - Visual Media & Meaningful work.

I am excited to learn more about, and get stuck into the world of Men's Sheds. With the help of the team and the various Sheds, I am excited to shine a light on the great work Men's Sheds are doing across the UK.

I have quite the hodgepodge of a background. I am trained in Graphic Design, Journalism, and Communications. I have been a writer for a magazine, toured briefly with a pop star and was, for a fleeting moment, a musical performer myself! I have also been a youth and community worker, a media manager and 'youtuber', but my proudest achievement has been being a husband to a lovely lady called Sarah and dad to a little boy and girl who are nine and six years old.

My claim to fame (infamy) is that I am well in the running for probably the worst DIY-er you could chance to meet, so secretly (just between you and me), I'm hoping I can actually learn a thing or two from the various Sheds I visit about making things, so please do be gentle when I mix-up my dovetail and my swallow tail!

I look forward to sharing many cups of tea with you in the coming months and hearing your stories when I meet you."



Our current Membership and Services Officer, Laura Winkley, is expecting to be taking adoption leave in the coming months when her family is set to grow having recently been approved as an adopter.

To have a smooth transition for our member Sheds, we have welcomed a new Membership and Support member of Staff to learn the ropes before Laura W takes some time off to adjust to parenthood! We hope it's not too confusing, as it's another Laura joining the team—



*"I'm **Laura Gill** and have recently joined UKMSA in their **Membership & Support Services Team**.*

I have a background working with various charities and with a particular interest in mental health and well-being. I have recently started a masters in psychology in Bristol.

I am so excited to be part of the Men's Sheds team and movement and look forward to getting to know some of you over the coming months!"

Say hello!

You can still contact the team by **calling 0300 772 9626** (apologies to anyone who has left voicemails recently,. Laura Winkley was unaware she had a problem with her answerphone, but this has now been resolved).

You can also email admin@ukmsa.org.uk, or send us a message through the website at menssheds.org.uk/contact

Please do keep sending us articles for our new look newsletter, coming soon!

Celebrating Sheds!



At this year's Shed of the Year awards, we recognised more contributions to the Shed movement from Sheds and Shedders.

Following the celebration meal shared by over 70 Shedders, the evening's celebrations were started by the inspirational Chris Fisher RPT, who shared some of his story, teaching himself to turn wood after he had gone completely blind.

The judging for the Shed of the Year awards was tough, with so many good nominations from Sheds and Shedders. It was a real joy for trustees and staff to present the awards alongside the award partners. Congratulations to all the winners, and runners up across the 5 categories. We look forward to celebrating more Sheds next year.



Health & Wellbeing Project of the Year 2019

Street Men's Shed

Runners up—
Dalbeattie Men's Shed

Community Project of the Year

Swanwick Men's Shed

Runners up—
Heatons' Men's Shed
Dalbeattie Men's Shed
Calne Men's Shed

Shed Partnership of the Year

Dalbeattie Men's Shed

Runners up—
Heatons' Men's Shed
Whitby Men's Shed
Hartford Men in Sheds

Shed Volunteer of the Year

Anthony Williams—Heatons' Men's Shed

Runners up—
Geoff Allison—Dalbeattie Men's Shed
Keith Nellis—Sleights Area Men's Shed
Eddie Fallows—Hartford Men in Sheds

Shed of the Year— Sunnyside Men's Shed (pictured)

Runners Up—
Renew Swindon
Street Men's Shed
Calne Men's Shed



A big thank you
to our
celebration
sponsors—



Behind the scenes of UK Men's Sheds...


Often wondered what's happening behind the scenes of UK Men's Sheds?

The Board of Trustees hold quarterly board meetings to review the operational progress and financial affairs of the CIO and to discuss plans and strategies for the future.

We've listened to Sheds who've asked for information about board meetings and what's happening at trustee level. From 2019 onwards the trustees have resolved to make details of the matters discussed and the decisions made during these meetings available to members.

All UKMSA Member Sheds can login to our website and view the notes at

menssheds.org.uk/member-area/governance/

 Not a member Shed? You can find out more about the benefits of being a member Shed at menssheds.org.uk/join.

Membership for Sheds is only £24 a year—at £2 a month, we bet it's less than the tea bill in your Shed!

Diary Dates

27th
Year

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

WOODWORKING & POWER TOOL SHOW

15–16 NOVEMBER 2019

10AM – 5PM

17 NOVEMBER 2019

10AM – 4PM

Hall 1, Yorkshire Event Centre
Great Yorkshire Showground
Harrogate HG2 8NZ

PRE-BOOKED TICKET HOTLINE

01749 813899

ADULTS £12.00 (PRE-BOOKED £10.00)
CONCESSIONS £11.00 (PRE-BOOKED £9.00)

The largest consumer woodworking and power tool show in the country

Everything for both amateur and trade woodworkers and ALL users of power tools

For full show details of exhibitors, demonstrators and craft associations visit www.skpromotions.co.uk or call 07946 855445

Sheds down under...

You may remember in July 2019's *Shoulder to Shoulder*, we featured an article from Martin Young, Chairman of Dunstable Men in Sheds, who took the opportunity while travelling 'down under' to visit a number of Sheds where the worldwide movement of Men's Sheds began.

To read more about Martin's adventures, including individual visits to Sheds across Australia and New Zealand, you can visit Martin's blog at martinsonline.travel.blog

Does your Shed need a little TLC?

The Screwfix Foundation currently offers local registered charities and not for profit organisations **funding of up to £5,000.**

All applications are reviewed individually by their team on a quarterly basis.

The review dates are in February, May, August and November.

All successful applications will be contacted by post, email or phone to arrange the next step. Unsuccessful applicants will be contacted within one month of the review meeting. If on the first instance an application is unsuccessful, you can reapply in future.



If you would like to apply for funds from The Screwfix Foundation, please ensure your application supports all of the below criteria:

- Your organisation or project is part of a Charity or Not for Profit Organisation
- The funds will help people in need (by reason of financial hardship, sickness, disability or other disadvantage or distress) in the UK
- The project relates to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of homes, community facilities and other buildings

You can find more information at screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation/

The National Data Strategy Needs You!

Shedders are known for having opinions and sharing them! We've been in contact with the Government's team working to shape the National Data Strategy (NDS). The aim of the strategy is to drive a collective national vision that will support the UK to unlock the power of data across government and the wider economy, while building citizen trust in its use. They'd like to learn from you and your everyday interactions with data.

The NDS is currently working on developing its long term vision and is keen to hear to hear from people (not necessarily Shedders) who are retired and would like to share their thoughts and experience. You are invited to attend a workshop where you will have the opportunity to help shape the future vision that will be part of the national data strategy.

You can get involved by attending and sharing your thoughts in an interactive workshop. The next date confirmed are—

Yorkshire, Monday 11 November: (book tickets at eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-data-strategy-2030-vision-workshop-yorkshire-tickets-77796123299)

Wales, Friday 15 November: eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-data-strategy-2030-vision-workshop-wales-tickets-78011788359

Alternatively, if your Shed, or somewhere in your community, could accommodate 30 – 50 people and you'd like to offer it as a venue, please contact the National Data Strategy Team.

If you'd like more information about the Nation Data Strategy Vision Workshops, please contact Claire Donaldson (claire.donaldson@culture.gov.uk) or Metri Arrum (metri.arrum@culture.gov.uk)

News & Notices!

You'll be hearing more from us, more often!

Keep a look out for our new look newsletter which will be out soon. Leo, our new Digital Communications Officer, is taking over the newsletter from our Membership and Support Officer, Laura Winkley.

If you have any stories for us to include in future newsletters, please don't hesitate to send them to us! You can email admin@ukmsa.org.uk.

Want your opportunity to be on TV?

Men are in popular demand with TV shows it seems—we've had many requests for UKMSA to share opportunities for TV shows such as the Great British Bake Off, Ready, Steady Cook and Hunted to name a few. We know you don't want your inbox filled up by us, so we haven't sent them out, but if your bucket list contains a wish to be on TV, let us know if you'd like to go into a mailing list for opportunities to be on TV, or to share your views!

ShedFest 2020

The provisional date for your diaries is Monday 6th July next year for ShedFest 2020.



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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