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WHAT'S ON?

22 January 2020 - Zero Suicide Tolerance Conference (London)

27-28 March 2020 - Midlands Woodworking Show (Newark)

6 July 2020 - National ShedFest 2020 (Worcester)

September 2020 - Screwfix Live (Farnborough)

We're hiring!

We have an opening for a Membership & Support Services Officer (Maternity Cover) Home based (with some travel around the United Kingdom) this role will be the primary contact and public face of UKMSA, engaging principally with members, those wishing to develop Sheds and the general public. An application can be found here www.menssheds.org.uk/about/work-with-us/ Deadline 31st January.

Congratulations to John Latchford!

Who was appointed Vice Chairman of UKMSA unanimously by the Board in December 2019

Goodbye Laura Gill

The UKMSA team and trustees would like to thank Laura Gill for her work with our Membership and Support team over the last few months. Laura left us a farewell message. "Thank you to UKMSA for my time here, I have loved getting to know Sheds and their Shedders, I'm very sad to be leaving. I wish the team and all Men's Sheds the very best for a wonderfully bright future."—We wish Laura all the best for her future adventures and studies.

Letter from the Chair

Greetings, all and Happy New Year! 2020 is already shaping up to be a very positive year and I certainly look forward to getting out to visit a lot more of you in the coming months. It was only due to my own poor health at the start of last year that prevented me from doing so but 'burning the candle at both ends' for far too long, always has a payback!



"Running Sheds can be a lot of hard work... We can all do with a little extra support."

A valuable lesson learnt that running Sheds can be a lot of hard work and can place so many (and varied) demands upon us. It's at these times that we all need to remember we can all do with a little extra support and not to mention the occasional well-earned rest!

Being overly busy often means not getting to spend enough quality time with those dearest to us. This was brought into painful focus by the untimely passing of my dear friend and constant wing-man, Angus 'Gus' Shaw, at the end of November.

Gus was a founder member of our Denbigh Men's Shed and was the archetypal 'Sheddder'. A true gentleman who never burdened others with his own woes but rather was always there with a word of encouragement and kindness. It was through a combination of his 'can-do' attitude and his innate charm, that we gained the green light to run the first ever ShedFest, way back in 2015.

Sadly Gus was too unwell to attend September's ShedFest, but he did attend Shed-Fest 2018 and was thoroughly bowled over with the experience. To see our bold little idea become the signature national event of a thriving Men's Shed movement in the UK made him immensely happy and it remains a fine testament to what we can all aspire to and achieve.

He is sorely missed and I hope that I do his memory justice in all my endeavours within the Men's Sheds movement and the UKMSA. Gus' signature catch-phrase was always 'Onwards and upwards' and it is in that spirit that I bid you an inspiring and productive start to the New Year.

Nathan Sarea

In fond memory of
Angus 'Donovan' Shaw
12/6/1952 – 16/11/2019



Welcome our new patron: Chris Fisher RPT

We are delighted to announce that Chris Fisher RPT has accepted our invitation to become the first official Patron of the UKMSA / UK Men's Sheds movement.

Also known as the Blind Woodturner, Chris started out in life as a regular guy. He was working in auto body repair at BMW, until one day, completely out of the blue, a rare condition (Toxoplasmosis) reared its ugly head and caused him to lose his sight in a matter of weeks. Chris turned his first commission in 2014, and in 2018 he became a full-time self-employed woodturner, who is currently sponsored and supported by Axminster Tools & Machinery. In July 2019, Chris became the first blind woodturner to be accepted on to the Register of Professional Turners (RPT).

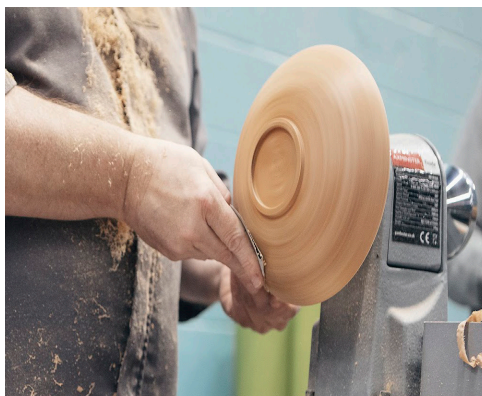
UKMSA are absolutely delighted and look forward to working with Chris in the months and years ahead. Chris is a true inspiration to all those who come to know him and we are genuinely honoured to have a man of his skill and calibre on board with us. We look forward to seeing a lot more of him in 2020".

If you haven't seen Chris before or met him yet, go to one of his demonstrations or follow him on YouTube www.youtube.com/channel/UCkxNOUNP8kNT7Gvpc1Mjlg and Twitter www.twitter.com/blindwoodturner

“

“It is a huge honour and privilege to be named as the patron for this charity. The work they do is amazing and so worthwhile. We look forward to working with you and inspiring as many people as we can to get involved with their local shed. Keep on turning everybody!

”



PRESIDENT'S CHIPS: The Garden Forest

My first 'Chip' last month focussed on the basics of global warming and finished with some ideas of what we could do about it.

I suggested in previously the aim of supporting local tree growth under the banner of the Camden Forest (my local borough). It has proven a popular idea with people coming together around the activity of planting trees in private gardens. Public authorities are planting in public spaces but in cities, gardens may have the most potential. We could get on with it immediately as the tree 'whips' (unbranched young tree seedlings) were freely available*and no permission was needed beyond the garden owner saying 'yes'.

It was popular because we know trees are so good for us. They break the hard lines of cities with irregular forms, adding movement, blossom and restful colours; they draw down carbon and breath out oxygen; they make cities cooler with moisture and shade; they soak up excess water and collect pollutants in fine hairs on their leaves, and they support biodiversity. even in cities. No surprise then to learn that recovery rates in hospitals are better for patients who can see trees. Whoever harbours a tree is a guardian of our futures.

To keep it simple we stood in Kentish Town Road, a local shopping street, and offered the whips to passing shoppers to plant at home. There was little publicity in advance so almost no-one was looking to get a tree that day. We were largely ignored of course and most who did respond said they didn't have gardens. So it was surprising that we were able to distribute one every 2 minutes, parting with 240 of our spring target of 400. It is a minuscule contribution towards carbon sequestration but it's an easy and popular 'win'.

Sheds often collect waste wood which saves carbon and methane emissions by it not going to landfill. Fifteen years ago three people decided they would also do that and like a Shed would either sell on what they collected or make furniture with it. It took a step further though and became a social enterprise



collecting commercial and domestic waste whilst providing paid activity for disadvantaged people. It now employs 20 people. Unsold wood is chipped for either new products or for energy production. For more detail see <https://www.oxfordwoodrecycling.org.uk>

Meanwhile back at the ranch we swapped our old fridge for a more efficient one that was dumped nearby.

Lets have a great year for Sheds and a wonderful 2020 for the band of Shedders!

Sources of trees: Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, Trust for Conservation Volunteers, local companies that want to offset emissions and improve PR.



recovery rates in hospitals are better for patients who can see trees. Whoever harbours a tree is a guardian of our futures.





MEET AN AMBASSADOR: Ivor Anderson

My name is Ivor Anderson, I established Aldridge Shed in the West Midlands after retiring from a very busy sales role, in psychometric testing!

Within a few weeks of retiring I found out that I had prostate cancer. After radiotherapy the cancer had been killed off, I faced the big 'What next?' question. I didn't want to sit at home and vegetate.

I heard about a forthcoming Shed meeting from my wife who'd seen a local ad so I went along. It's hard to believe that the embryo of our shed began at the Aldridge Youth Theatre on 12th Feb 2016. Around 50 people attended and were given a presentation by Jo Phillips, Project Manager –Sheds with the RVS (Royal Voluntary Service) & Trustee of UK Men's Sheds Association.

We were asked if we were interested in being part of a committee to put our names down and we would be contacted, which we duly were!

Our first Shed team meeting was held on 24th February 2016 at Wetherspoons in Aldridge where a few intrepid people (or was that just me) signed up but we were unsure of what they were letting themselves in for....needless to say 3 years on we've never looked back, well apart from writing this piece.

The atmosphere is great. We've got a really happy Shed (on the whole). Such a range of skills and personalities. Our Shed isn't enormous, but we somehow manage to get along well, supporting each other in projects for the Shed and personally.

I believe the Shed movement is very special and I am very proud to be part of it. The diversity of the range of Sheds that exist now here in the UK is fantastic. The craftsmanship and the appetite to learn still blows me away. But ultimately it's just wonderful to be part of something proactive—local people helping themselves, each other and the wider community. Something every corner of the country could benefit from.

I was nominated by our Sheds original contact from RVS. After some conversations and arm twisting I really understood the need for UKMSA to grow a network of people who are willing to promote and support the Shed movement at a local level.

I feel Aldridge Shed is now in a good place and I'd like to do more to support the Shed community in the West Midlands.

Since joining the Ambassador programme I've presented at a number of meetings to premise owners, I've hosted a number of stands at big events, including Aldridge Sheds helping out at Makers Central.

I also helped organise and host a visit from the Mayor of West Midlands. I worked closely with Kate to organise a great event with open offers from the Mayor's office to support the W Midlands Shed movement....

I am looking forward to supporting UKMSA in the development of a West Midlands Focus area. To really start forming a team of Ambassadors to put concentrated effort into this large and diverse area of the UK. We have our first W Midlands Shed THINK tank session scheduled in the new year.

We've successfully set up a Shed which now sustains its own existence and I am keen to help others in setting up.

I also see the Ambassador role as very important for raising the profile of the Shed movement – the more we can shout about all that local Sheds are achieving, the more doors will open to premises, funds and people walking through the door to become members. The impact of the Shed is far beyond the men (and women) that come along – the impact is far-reaching to all the groups we help and provide services for and the friends and families who see a positive change in their loved men!

MEET A TRUSTEE: Chris Lee



Regrettably, my involvement with The Repair Shed in Hemel Hempstead is now arm's length, not least because I live at the opposite corner of Hertfordshire to the Shed. But I'm delighted to say I still get invited to the Christmas celebrations – thanks guys!

Since helping to set up the Repair Shed over a three-year period, as a Trustee I've continued my involvement in, and support for, the Shed movement. My day-job is mentoring long term unemployed people in East Herts three days a week. There's scope for referring some of my mentees to Sheds, which is great when it happens.

That said, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire are pretty much deserts when it comes to Sheds, so I see an important part of my Trustee role as promoting Sheds generally and supporting start-ups locally whenever I can—together we are stronger.

BOOK REVIEW by Chris Lee

Beginner's Guide to DIY and Home Repair
By Jo Behari and Alison Winfield-Chislett

Full declaration: I know co-author Alison Winfield-Chislett as it's she I have to thank for introducing me to the world of Repair Cafes (she runs one from her wonderful Goodlife Centre in London). When, with Alison's encouragement, I set up a Repair Café in Royston I was amazed to discover how many people of a certain age and stage seemed to know about electronics. I was not one of them and, when I asked how they knew about fixing electrical appliances, I got a puzzled response; 'doesn't everyone?'

Well, the answer is 'no', or nor does everyone learn DIY at their mother's knee. Which is why I welcome this hands-on book that guides the first-timer through the basics of DIY – from the tools and terms, through 30 step-by-step projects around your home, to the techniques. I love the 'DIY hacks' sprinkled throughout the text – so

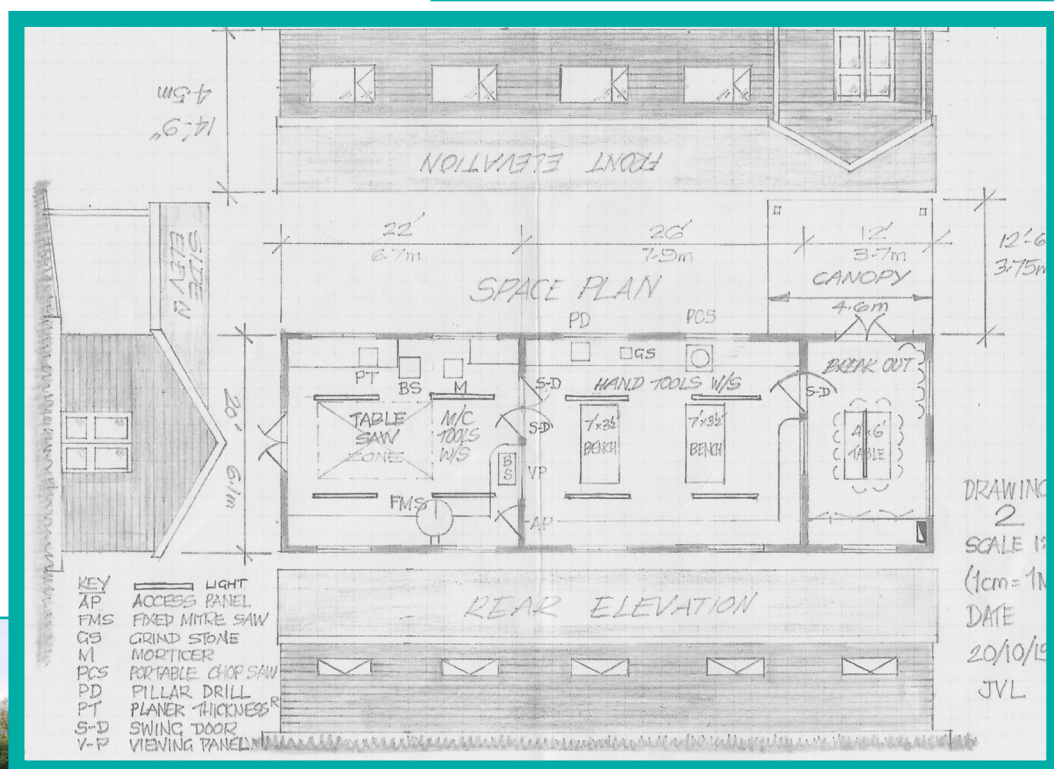
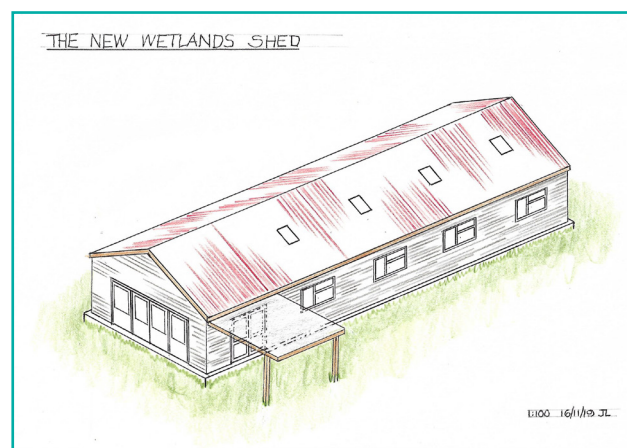
you can talk like a professional, even if you take a while to learn to work like one. I was also pleased the book has a gender-free feel to it – both in words and pictures – which may be explained by the female co-authorship. Speaking as a grumpy old pedant who worked in book publishing for 15 years, while I welcome the inclusion of a jargon buster and index, the book's transatlantic character means there's no explanation of the similarities between anchors and Rawlplugs, between P-traps and U-bends, and I had to check that a vice and a vise are the same thing. But maybe I'm just splitting hairs; not one of the DIY projects...

Details at www.hive.co.uk/Product/Alison-Winfield-Chislett/Beginners-Guide-to-DIY--Essential-DIY-Techniques-for-the-First-Timer/23594590 In the UK, if you buy online from Hive, you support local bookshops. Chris Lee is the UKMSA Trustee and founder of The Repair Shed in Hemel Hempstead.



We were generously donated monies by South Norfolk District Council and our District Councillor Brendon Bernard, with other monies coming from sales of goods and subscriptions of our members. The Shed formed three years ago and for the first 18 months met for two hours every Friday morning in a local village hall. At one point the village hall offered permission to build a shed to the rear of the hall, but later reneged on their offer. For the past 18 months, as well as our Friday morning meetings, we found a temporary home in a barn on a local farm allowing us to add two additional morning meetings doing more practical activities.

For more information contact: Graham Dean (Chairman)
on 01502 679063 or e-mail: jgdeano@hotmail.com



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

easyfundraising



We know it can be difficult for our Sheds to raise the funds needed to keep going. This is why we work with easyfundraising – the UK's biggest charity fundraising shopping site. easyfundraising gives Shedders and Shed supporters a simple and straightforward way to raise fund for your Shed at no cost to themselves.

4,000 shops and sites will donate to your Shed when Shedders and Shed supporters use easyfundraising to shop with them. This money can then be put towards new materials, extra supplies and daily running costs.

Amazon, eBay, Screwfix and Argos, along with thousands of others, will all donate, so Shedders and Shed supporters can raise FREE donations for your Shed no matter what they're buying.

Hundreds of Sheds are already using easyfundraising. If you're interested in this simple and straightforward way to raise funds for your Shed register for FREE here: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/mens-shed

The Screwfix Foundation



currently offers local registered charities and not for profit organisations funding of up to £5,000 to support projects that will fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and community facilities for those in need throughout the UK. Learn more www.screwfix.com/help/screwfixfoundation/

Masonic Charitable Foundation



Their Later Life Grant programme is open to local and national charities who are working to reduce loneliness and isolation in later life. www.mcf.org.uk/apply-later-life/

The Zero Suicide Alliance



is a collaborative of National Health Service trusts, businesses and individuals who are all committed to suicide prevention in the UK and beyond. The Alliance is ultimately concerned with improving support for people contemplating suicide by raising awareness of and promoting FREE suicide prevention training which is accessible to all. The aims of this training are to: enable people to identify when someone is presenting with suicidal thoughts/behaviour, to be able to speak out in a supportive manner, and to empower them to signpost the individual to the correct services or support. www.zerosuicidealliance.com/get-involved/

ARTICLES FROM THE THIRD SECTOR



Scottish Government cash could transform empty West Lothian community centre

Only one of two West Lothian community projects proposed for Government funding help has gone to a second stage. The Craigsfarm Community Development Project passed the first stage of the Scottish Government viability assessment and has now gone back with an application for £204,828.

The application was made to Holyrood's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. A second application from the West Calder and Harburn Community Development Trust failed. The application was for financial backing to create a Children's Co-operative Discovery Centre in former council buildings in the town's Society Place. It failed to pass eligibility criteria in the first round of funding applications.

The Council's executive agreed to press on with the Craigsfarm bid at its last meeting. The Craigsfarm project will fund a plan to reinstate a vacant and condemned building at the community centre into usable community space and improved the standard of adjacent outdoor space for community use.

Two projects which will likely benefit from the rebuild are the Men's Shed and Henpower which will co-locate and a new dementia/sensory garden will be built in part of the redeveloped outdoor space. The project has evolved since 2012. Buildings and land transferred into community control in 2016 through the establishment of the Craigsfarm Community Development Project.

A report to the Council's executive earlier this year said: "The new space at the community project in Craigshill will also enable the centre to provide a much needed home for local youth services as well as a dedicated hub for learning, support and employability. Improvements to the external environment will build capacity to deliver a number of initiatives which have been proven to tackle poor mental health and isolation."

www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-government-cash-could-transform-20755697

Charity Reporting

A review of Men's Sheds Accounts

Why it is important

All charities (registered or not) must prepare and make available annual accounts and a trustees' report. Charity reporting is very important and not just because it is a legal requirement but also because good things can happen when you get it right. The Pears Foundation is a charitable trust which does not accept applications for funding. They seek out charities that they wish to support and they will only fund those "whose objectives are clear, who can demonstrate best practice and sustainability, whose operations are transparent and whose commitment to the public benefit is demonstrable".

We were therefore delighted when last month the Pears Foundation sent us a £10,000 surprise Christmas Gift. That would not have happened if the UKMSA's 2019 Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts had not met their grant making conditions. Most funders will look at your accounts before awarding any grants. Poor reporting is indicative of weak governance and may seriously reduce your fundraising chances. While we are confident about the quality of reporting made by UKMSA we've been wondering how individual Men's Sheds were coping with this important obligation.

What we found

Over the last few months we have spent some time looking at the accounts filed by Men's Sheds with the three UK Charity Regulators. We found that there were some reasonable attempts to get things right but there were many mistakes being made. We did not, however, manage to find a single set of filed accounts which did not contain at least one obvious error or omission. The most common errors involved balances brought forward and comparative figures. In some cases the accounts simply did not add up or balance with funds held.

There was also confusion with terminology whereby receipts and payments (cash transactions only) were reported as income and expenditure (which should include accrued income and costs). A good proportion had used the template provided by the Charity Commission, which was good to see, but even with these it was clear some struggled to understand what was required or how to do it correctly. Surprisingly the vast majority failed to disclose any assets held for use by the charity. We would expect most Men's Sheds to have tools and machines. From our review we concluded that Men's Sheds need some support to meet their reporting obligations.

Keep it simple

We recommend that all Men's Sheds choose the simple Receipts and Payments basis (allowed if income is below £250,000) for their accounts. If you chose Receipts and Payments then you are only dealing with cash transactions (money) and there are only 2 things that can happen with money; it comes in and it goes out.

The accounting requirements follow this premise, all you need to do is

- Record money in and record money out and
- Check the difference between money in and money out equals the cash and bank balances held (to ensure you have recorded everything correctly).

You should also keep separate records for each type of money account, don't mix cash and different bank accounts up. Keeping separate records makes it much easier to check balances and find errors. For each account (Cash, Bank Current and Deposit) each entry should be analysed between reasons why it came in or reasons why it went out.

Ultimately your bookkeeping records should be designed to provide the numbers needed for the final accounts without the need for any further work. Plan for that and the accounts will be easy.

On page 12 we are providing member Sheds access to a free Cash Book and Accounts template to help you do all this. If your Shed is not a member Join Here. <https://menssheds.org.uk/register/shed/>

Coming Next Time: Audit or Independent Examination?

Charity reporting made easy

With a free Men's Shed Cashbook and Accounts template

During our review of Men's Sheds' accounts (see page 11) we found that many are not getting it right. To be honest this does not surprise me. Unless you have prior experience it can be difficult to know how to approach the task.

But it can be very straight forward if you adopt a systematic and methodical approach. The trick is to ask what end product is required? What does it look like? Only then can you set your bookkeeping records up to gather the required information correctly from the start. To help members of UKMSA with this I have taken the Receipts and Payments excel template provided by the three UK Charity regulators and linked it to a Cash Book where you can record receipts and payments.

The resultant Cash Book and Accounts template should be suitable for any Men's Shed in the UK not registered as a Limited Liability or Community Interest Company. I have tried to make it as easy as possible and this is reflected by a Set Up that only requires your Shed Name, Charity number (if you have one) and the dates that you will be reporting on. You may name your bank accounts, but that is optional.

I have also made it flexible enough so that you can, if you wish, choose your own reasons for why money comes in and why money goes out, but there is no requirement to do so. You may use the suggested reasons or amend the lists to suit your own Shed. It can be used by any Shed, new or old, regardless of charitable status operating as either an unincorporated association or a CIO. (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Sheds in their second or subsequent period can enter their prior year figures.

Once the simple set up has been completed you can enter receipts and payments and check your balances agree to your bank statement(s). Do this as you go. I have also included a fixed asset record which can be used to list all the tools, machines and other equipment in your Shed to help with completing the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. This can be further used to ensure adequate insurance cover is obtained and assist with any claims.

These simple worksheets automatically complete the Receipts and Payments Account, which is compliant with the requirements of all the Charity Regulators in the UK. All that you then have to do is manually complete, if applicable, some entries on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Member Sheds can [download a free copy of this Excel template](#) along with guidance notes from the resource library (finance and governance) section of our website. If your Shed is not a member Join at <https://menssheds.org.uk/register/shed/>

Coming Next Time: Converting from an Unincorporated Association to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) - legal and accounting considerations.

by Mark Lindsey
UKMSA Treasurer



UKMSA Member Men's Shed

0123456

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the
period from

Period start
date

01/04/2019

To

Period end date

31/03/2020

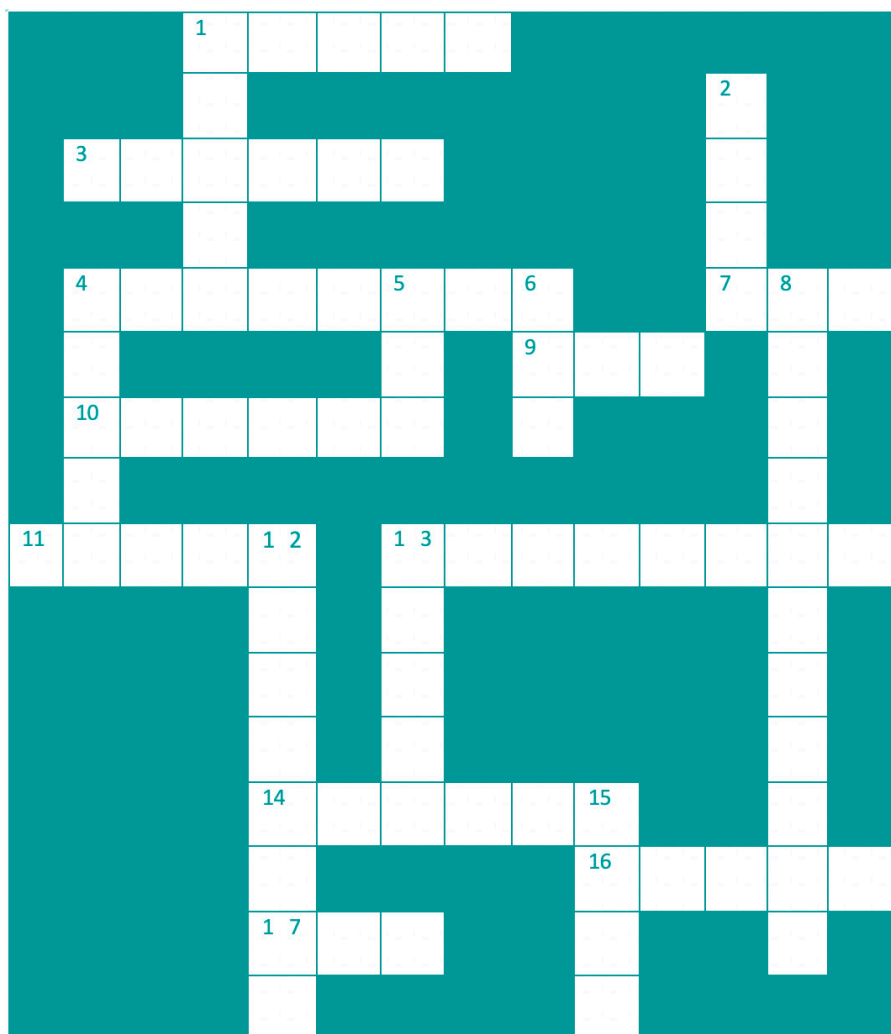
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestrict ed funds to the nearest £	Restrict ed funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Receipts				
Membership fees	328		328	
Donations	5,220		5,220	
Grants		800	800	
Sales / event income	135		135	
Interest				
Other				
Sub total (unrestricted income for AGP)	5,683	800	6,483	

sales				
Sale of assets				
Sale of investments				
Sub total				
Total receipts	5,683	800	6,483	

Payments				
Shed premises costs	150		150	
Insurance	125		125	
Materials & consumables	124		124	

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1 Softer than soft
- 3 Fruit Picker
- 4 Hogmanay anagram.
- 7 Mel is muddled up
- 9 As seven
- 10 Sound of dog missing you
- 11 Sounds like Julius
- 13 Not a softwood
- 14 Hammer, not spanner required
- 16 And ivory?
- 17 The mighty

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Often found by the sea
- 2 Citrus
- 4 Canadian Syrup
- 5 What's left after the fire
- 6 What are _____ looking at?
- 8 Capital City flying
- 12 Hard English flower
- 13 Nutty girl
- 15 Take a break after a drink

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

There are some really exciting conversations happening amongst Shedders online.

Everything from figuring out how to build a Shed from the ground up to sharing tools and strategies for growth.

We have seasoned Shedders and newbies sharing ideas as well as just enjoying the company.

Don't be shy, join the conversation, You'll find us all here:

<https://bit.ly/3ak8Vpg>

SHEDOKU

4			3		7	6		
		3			2	8		
	2	8	5	1		7		4
1			8	2	3	9		
			7	5		1	2	8
		4			9			
6		2		4	8	3	5	1
	3			7		4		
		9				2	8	

Trustee or not Trustee, that is the question..... maybe

Happy New Year to you all.

An article in the newsletter of The Third Sector before Christmas talked about the 'accidental Trustee'. It was brought to our attention by one of our funding partners as it mentioned a Men's Shed. The article quoted a Shedder (who may or may not have been a Trustee) stating that he did not know if he was a Trustee or not. It also went on to express concern about Safeguarding issues in another Shed and how that Shed was effectively run as a dictatorship. Clearly, the alarm bells were ringing and I contacted the author who explained that she could not divulge the name of the Sheds mentioned and that the 'Safeguarding issues' were not with regard to the Shed, and that the Shed in question was not a member of UKMSA.

Whether or not the Shed is a member of UKMSA or not does not really matter here, the article reminded us of three things. The first to continue to support Sheds and develop our materials to support you in your journey to becoming a registered charity (or similar) if you wish to; the second was that we do not market ourselves well enough to non-member Sheds so that they can also access the support and materials we have produced with Sheds and thirdly, to be vigilant and to ask you to be vigilant when you see articles as people will happily publish things that may not be as they seem, to add interest or sensationalism to their articles.

Is your Shed a charity, or an organisation with charitable aims?

Men's Sheds registered as charities, either as Unincorporated Associations or Charitable Incorporated Associations (CIOs) are clearly charities but what about those which are not registered?

To answer this, we have to read the Charities Act, luckily someone else did it for us! The Charities Act 2011 defines a charitable purpose, explicitly, as one that falls within thirteen descriptions of purposes and is for the public benefit. It is not easy however to see where a Men's Shed fits within these descriptions. Luckily we have a number of Trustees with interest in this field so you do not need to, and Section 1 of the Recreational Charities Act 1958 states the following is charitable:

'facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation that are provided in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom they are intended.

The Charity Commission has stated that to meet the express requirements of Section 1 the "social welfare" requirement must be altruistic in character and be set up to meet certain social needs.

They further go on to explain that social welfare and public benefit requirements must be met.'

UKMSA believe that this describes most if not all Men's Sheds. If a Men's Shed has been set up with a constitution that fits this definition then they could well be charitable regardless of registration status.

Why Register a Shed as a Charity?

There are lots of benefits and sadly some paperwork. The key advantage is Trust, it provides Trust in the community, local authorities and to funding bodies that you are a 'real' organisation. It provides confidence and assurance. There are other benefits such as Rate relief in some cases, access to funding which is only available to charities and safeguarding of restricted funds.

Good news on the paperwork is that UKMSA Treasurer, Mark Lindsey has devised a fantastic spreadsheet to assist reporting whether you are a charity in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. It will simply take your bookkeeping entries and provide the answers asked for by the various bodies. Available to member Sheds on the website.

Trustees or not Trustees

So are you a Trustee? Trustees have the legal responsibility for running a charity. The law describes charity trustees as 'the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity' (Charities Act 2011, section 177).

It is very important that a charity can identify its Trustees; they are the individuals who take decisions as the governing body of the charity, regardless of their actual title.

Sometimes charity's Trustees are given other titles, such as governors, councillors, management committee members or directors. The title used is usually in the charity's governing document.

What matters is the role, not the title. Trustees have specific duties that should be set out in the Shed's

constitution or governing document. Trustees must act collectively to govern the charity and take decisions. Together, the trustees are described in this guidance as the trustee board. Trustees have no authority to act on their own as a trustee unless this has been authorised by the trustee board as a whole. Some charities use different terms to describe the trustee board, such as management committee, executive committee or board of directors. Again, what matters is the role, not the title. There is lots of information published on the role of Trustees and it can get a bit tedious to read it all. There is guidance in the UKMSA members area and also the Charities Commission and NCVO websites are great places to look.

Support

Remember, UKMSA is here to support. If we do not have the answer to a question in this area we will know someone who does or where to go. We are also reviewing the information Sheets we produce, starting with the most accessed first. This will take time, especially as we are also adding to their number. We are also seeking financial support to develop a package to support the leaders and committees in Sheds with both governance and operational aspects of their roles. Not everything will be relevant to your Shed, but hopefully, it will meet your needs.

And finally.....

If you meet a Shed that needs support and they are not members, put them in touch. The network of Sheds in the UK is an amazingly powerful movement and one that can probably answer every question someone has. Also please let us know when people make comments about us in the press, we may have missed it and we want to ensure they are making informed comments about Sheds!

by Charlie Bethel
UKMSA Chief Officer

