

SHOULDER 2 SHOULDER



UK
Men's
Sheds

ISSUE 62 | JUNE/JULY 2020

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Welcome to the June/July issue of *Shoulder to Shoulder*. Sheds are starting to think about re-opening / unlocking their doors read more within. This month we've opted for a back-to-basics stripped-down issue. We hope that you will find it much easier to print. Stay safe.

UK MEN'S SHEDS ASSOCIATION



Guidelines for Unlocking your Shed

#StopTheSpread

Across the country Shedders are asking, when can we re-open and what will we need to put in place? In partnership with other Shed Associations and Sheds, we have developed a document to help you think through the issues before re-opening your Shed. We've compiled some useful Resources Packs on our website to help. <https://menssheds.org.uk/covid-19/>

FEATURING:

- THE BLIND WOODTURNER
- PETER SEFTON
- UNLOCKING SHEDS
- ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY
- LEADERSHIP
- TOOL MAINTENANCE
- DELIVERING DIY COURSES
- TALES FROM WALES

ShedFest 2020

ONLINE EVENT
menssheds.org.uk/shedfest-2020/

AXMINSTER
Tools & Machinery

MEN'S SHEDS
CYMRU

RONSEAL

triton

This month our team are all busily planning our annual ShedFest which will run from July 7 – 9. This year the event is happening online. More information will be popping up on our social media and website. We are excited to announce that the event is completely free for all! We have some exciting speakers and workshops lined up. Spread the word, we hope to see many of you there!

www.menssheds.org.uk/shedfest-2020/



With traditional fundraising activities on hold due to Covid-19, it's a good time to investigate online fundraising options instead. Our partner **easyfundraising** is a fundraising website where your fellow Sheddors and supporters can **raise money** for your Shed just by shopping online. Whenever they use the easyfundraising website or app to shop with over 4000 well known retailers including Amazon, Argos, eBay, John Lewis, Trainline, Screwfix, Currys, PC World, Just Eat and many more, the retailer they shop with sends your Shed a free donation – it's as simple as that.

Many Sheds are already using easyfundraising, including Ellon & District Men's Shed who have raised £665 so far. If your Shed isn't registered yet simply **join as a good cause to get started** – it's completely free and only takes two minutes! <http://efraising.org/C1iAQJtTJW>

Meet a Trustee

Hello, I hope you are all safe and well.

So, what to say about me? Well, I've lived and worked in a number of places in the UK, making it as far as the North of Scotland before working my way back down south and am currently living in Gloucestershire.

I've worked in Human Resources for a number of years for organisations in the public, private and charity sectors and enjoy the challenges and variety this brings. Over the years I have developed an interest in health and wellbeing and the impact it has at work.

As a result of this interest I started looking at how I could use my experience outside of work. When I saw the advert for the Trustee role at Men's Sheds it felt like serendipity! Fast forward to today and I feel privileged to be involved in the organisation, working with the other Trustees to inspire and support the development of Men's Sheds.

I've enjoyed meeting Shedders at ShedFest and in my local area and, once Sheds are open again, I hope to meet many more of you. Although I must warn you that my knowledge of Shed activities is limited and the only practical experience I have is making a jewellery box with dubious corners and a wonky lid in school woodwork!

Since then I'm afraid the closest I've come is building flatpack furniture (I won't go into the trauma!) [no full stop] However, if any Shedders are brave enough to let me near a project, I'd be happy to have another go...

Elise Cook



Meet our newest Ambassador: Mike Brading

There are quite a few UK Men's Sheds Ambassadors now, each there to help Sheds get started, develop and expand. That way, more people benefit from shedding. What follows is why recently I agreed to become an Ambassador...

It started a couple of months back when I was invited to appear on Patrick Abraham's brilliant *Shed Happens* radio programme to talk about Basingstoke Shed and our major project, Shed-in-a-Bus. I was interviewed by Patrick [a Shed Ambassador at Frome Men's Shed] and UK Shed Development Manager, Kate Gordon and, somehow, I ended up becoming an Ambassador.

Shedding for me started five years ago, two years after I had retired. I live mid-way between Reading and Basingstoke Sheds and, as Basingstoke didn't have a Shed at the time, I thought I'd go and find out what Reading's Shed (The Silvers' Workshop) was all about. Having plucked up the courage to go through the forbidding Shed door, I was surprised to find no one there. Then I heard laughter behind another door. I opened it to discover the Sheddies sitting around eating their lunch. The Shed's Chair, Tony Smith-Crallan, took one look at me and said "*What are you looking so miserable about?*" So, I joined and loved it. Ever since then I have been a keen Shedder and passionate about getting others who can benefit from shedding to join one.

So, I was delighted when Brian Cooke (inventor of the Ambassador programme) invited me to a meeting in a Basingstoke café to discuss opening the town's first Shed. Curiously, it was on April Fool's Day 2016 but, despite that, 83 days and £8.66 later we had a public meeting and opened the Shed two days later in the Portakabin we still inhabit today, rent-free.

Since then, we've done many things that a typical Shed does - making and mending things and generally contributing to the local community, while growing our membership. We have also become a charity (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation), opened another site on the other side of Basingstoke, and started our Shed-in-a-Bus project.

Shed-in-a-Bus is what it says on the tin – a Shed in a red ex-London double decker bus. The idea is to help get new Sheds open by being their Shed for 6-12 months. Each week the Bus will park up in a community for a few hours and make all the facilities needed for a Shed available to those trying to get one started. We'll also use it at summer shows and the like - to encourage people to come and see what a Shed and shedding is like. Our aim is to get more people going to Sheds and inspire and help others open.

Unlike our fixed Sheds, which were always low-cost affairs, the Bus needed a lot of funding – and it took most of 2019 to secure it. This meant writing a business plan and funding applications, getting support from Stagecoach Bus, the community and various other organisations. Now we are looking forward to conquering the virus so we can start the conversion from Bus to Shed.

I am really looking forward to getting involved in the Ambassador programme. The existing Ambassadors in this part of the country are setting up a regional network, based around the Thames Valley. This will be modelled on the popular Southern Men's Shed Network. Sheds in

Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and North Hampshire please watch out for an invitation that will be coming your way.

I'll be working out how mobile Sheds like Shed-in-a-Bus can help get the message about Sheds out there and helping new Sheds get started and existing ones develop wherever I can. As we all know, shedding is good for a lot of people and there's room for more.

Someone once said to me that our goal should be that every person who wants to go to a Shed should be able to, and that is why we have the Ambassador programme. If you believe that, too and want to help others to join Sheds and/or start new ones, why not talk to Kate about joining the programme? She can be contacted at kate.gordon@ukmsa.org.uk

Happy shedding! www.basingstokeshed.org.uk , www.shed-in-a-bus.org.uk

Mike Brading



Patron's Corner

The time certainly seems to be flying by at the moment. Just earlier today I was convinced it was Wednesday. It is in fact Thursday, as I write this! Apart from taking Bamber for a walk, I have not been anywhere for about seven weeks. Nicola and I have both had enough of lockdown now so we are glad the restrictions are being slowly lifted.

With this in mind our thoughts turn to the Sheds being made accessible to members again. I had a conversation with Charlie Bethel the other day and we were discussing ways of keeping the Sheds clean, tidy and safe. It is always good practice to keep our workspaces as tidy as we can but, at the present, a little more effort is needed to keep any contamination to a minimum. Giving tools and machinery a good wipe down at the end of a session would be prudent. White vinegar and tea tree oil are great organic substitutes for harsh chemicals. Keeping the products natural, a final polish with beeswax will help tools stay protected, and sliding and gliding nicely. This definitely goes for hand tools as these are used for longer periods of time. The list could go on ... See what you can add.

To help with this year's ShedFest, Charlie asked if I would like to get involved and, of course, as the Patron, I jumped at the chance. I am sure some speaking will be involved but I am waiting to hear back about the programme of events being confirmed.

Regarding my own work, it is going well. I have been in the workshop practically every day and the practice time is invaluable. I get a lot of satisfaction from my woodturning. It is a passion that runs deep and I am sure many of you reading this feel the same about your work and artistry. No matter where your interests lie we can all strive for perfection in our work. Some days we can be 'off our game', but I love the challenge of getting better at what I do. Often the cards seem to be stacked against me, but I just play the hand I was dealt and put on my best game face. The promise of a better tomorrow has me getting back in the workshop day after day and that is why I keep on turning!

Stay happy and creative **Chris Fisher RPT**



Broadstairs Town Shed

'Shed Heads' awarded Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Broadstairs Town Shed are one of 230 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups across the UK to receive the prestigious award this year. The number of nominations remains high year on year, showing that the voluntary sector is thriving and full of innovative ideas to make life better for those around them.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Recipients are announced each year on 2nd June, the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.



Broadstairs Town Shed is a project from Broadstairs Town Team, run by volunteers. It's a place where members participate in woodwork, metalwork, art and other activities in a friendly and supportive environment. Its aims are to help combat loneliness and isolation in older people and to promote health, wellbeing and community engagement.

There are 11 'Shed Head' volunteers who oversee and manage the day-to-day running of the Shed, based in St. Peter's in Thanet, East Kent. With backgrounds before retirement that range from building, carpentry, antiques, teaching, to the Merchant Navy and taxi driving, the group

meet at the Shed and oversee and manage all the activities available. They have been awarded this highly prestigious accolade for their commitment, dedication, and donation of skills and time in helping other older people learn woodworking skills.

As the project has evolved, so has their involvement with other Shed members, also developing joint activities outside of the Shed ranging from swimming together, table tennis, walking football, cooking, art classes and boules.

With the pandemic meaning the Shed is closed for the time being, the Shed Heads have devised and implemented a rota of keeping in touch by phoning members and, where permitted, arranging support with collection of prescriptions and shopping too.

Representatives of the Shed will receive the award from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent later this summer. In addition, two volunteers from the Shed will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May 2021, along with other recipients of this year's Award.



"It is a complete surprise to myself and the other Trustees of Town Team could not be more proud. It is wonderful that their hard work and achievements are being acknowledged in this way. The dedication and donation of time and skills that our amazing Shed Heads give all our members is extraordinary. Without them the Shed could not thrive in the way that it has over the last six years since we opened. Although they are itching to get back to 'work' we know that sadly we shall have to remain closed for the time being, but we shall certainly be having a huge celebration when it is safe for us to be together and to say thanks in person. Their certificate will take pride of place on our Shed 'Wall of Fame'. <https://www.broadstairstownshed.org.uk>

Kerry Millett - Chair of Broadstairs Town Team

Man-up! Grow a pair! Big boys don't cry!

These are just some of the unhelpful phrases that are still said to boys and men on a daily basis.

Old school friends Fabian and Patrick, who have both struggled with their mental health, have collected over 50 stories by men with real lived experiences, young and old, from all walks of life and with a range of mental illnesses, who share their experience and advice for other men.

They have written a book called *Big Boys Don't Cry?* The stories are eye-opening and moving, helpful and hopeful, but above all they are empowering for men (and women) who will realise, often for the first time, that others are experiencing the same inner turmoil and pain as them.

Learn more about the stories behind the book or get the book here <https://bigboysdontcry.co.uk/>



Men's Health Week 2020: take action on Covid-19

Men's Health Week runs every year in June leading up to Father's Day. For 2020, the week runs from 15-21 June and there can only be one possible topic, right?

Yes, you've guessed it. The theme for Men's Health Week 2020 is 'Take Action on Covid-19'. The aim is to get all of us looking at what we can all do to prevent the virus doing more damage.

We're calling on men to:

- Take action to avoid spreading the virus - just because we can do things, doesn't mean we should. Let's think about what we do and why.
- Take action to get the best out of lockdown and the 'new normal' - let's not dwell on what we can't do, but on the opportunities that more time indoors might provide, whether it's for fun stuff like hobbies or serious stuff like our relationships.
- Take action to beat 'underlying conditions' that make Covid-19 outcomes worse like diabetes, excess weight and lung problems. That means thinking about what we eat and drink and how we keep active.

Shedders can help each other with all of these whether it's online or in the Shed at a safe social distance. The Men's Health Forum's toolbox talk on Covid-19 raises all the issues you need to discuss for a safe Shed.

The Forum are also calling on government to:

- Take action to protect everyone by recognising, analysing, researching (and publishing) how the virus affects different groups of people in different ways.
- Take action to track, trace, isolate and support - with targeted support for different needs.
- Take action to support organisations working with men.

There is a special poster for Sheds below. Find out more and download more posters, the toolbox talk, social media shares, and other materials at: <https://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/mhw>

‘WILL THE SHED EVER BE NORMAL AGAIN?’



**MEN'S
HEALTH
WEEK**

2020



We don't know everything about Covid-19. But some things we do know.

Keeping in touch with shedders and other friends is good for our mental wellbeing. Talk on the phone, online, or at a social distance as we move from one 'new normal' to another.

Take action on Covid-19.

#menshealthweek #staysafe

menshealthforum.org.uk

Grants Funds for small charities

In response to COVID-19, the Government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, delivered through the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund.

Concerned that many smaller charities were missing out, the Charity Tax Group (CTG) prepared a briefing for officials at BEIS, MHCLG [abbreviations below] and HM Treasury proposing that the eligibility criteria for the Small Business Grants Fund be amended to allow charities to make a claim where they would have been eligible to claim for Small Business Rates Relief, had they not claimed mandatory charity business rates relief. The briefing was prepared with the support of sector partners including Small Charities Coalition, NAVCA, CFG and NCVO.

On 2 May, the Government announced that an additional £617 million of grant funding will be made available for distribution by Local Authorities. This additional fund is aimed at small businesses with ongoing fixed property-related costs and will be open to small charity properties that would meet the criteria for Small Business Rates Relief. Information on the eligibility criteria for the Small Business Rates Relief can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief/small-business-rate-relief).

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief/small-business-rate-relief>

Broadly speaking, it is open to organisations with a primary property with a rateable value <£15k – additional eligibility rules apply if multiple properties are owned. You can check the 'rateable value' of your property [here](https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/business-rates-find/search?_ga=2.77861652.1653171566.1589184950-657713723.1589184950). https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/business-rates-find/search?_ga=2.77861652.1653171566.1589184950-657713723.1589184950

Guidance has now been published for local authorities and their key sections are reproduced on the CTG website [here](https://www.charitytaxgroup.org.uk/news-post/2020/local-authority-discretionary-grants-fund-open-small-charities/). <https://www.charitytaxgroup.org.uk/news-post/2020/local-authority-discretionary-grants-fund-open-small-charities/>

CTG Chairman John Hemming said: *"Small charities have expressed frustration that the £10k Small Business Grant Fund is only open to organisations claiming Small Business Rates Relief and not those claiming mandatory charity rates relief. This is despite the fact that many small charities have properties of an equivalent size and have been equally affected by the COVID-19 shutdown and the associated loss of income. CTG, working with sector partners, proposed a tweak to the current rules to allow small charities to claim the grant. With current allocation of the grant funds lower than anticipated by Government, we argued that this pragmatic step could deliver urgent financial stimulus to small charities, at no extra cost to the Exchequer. The announcement that charity properties can be eligible for this additional grant fund is very welcome. While this funding is at the discretion of local authorities, this is a positive announcement for small charities that should ensure some are able to access funding that has been unattainable to date. Charities are encouraged to look out for application forms being published by their Local Authorities and to contact them to demonstrate their need for this funding".*

Abbreviations used in this article: BEIS – Department for Business Energy and Strategy, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, National Association for Voluntary and Community Action, NCVO – National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Co-op Local Community Fund

We want to help communities to come together, co-operate and have a positive impact on community wellbeing – physically and virtually. If you're successful, the funding period will begin on 25 October. Applications must be completed by midnight on 28 June 2020.

<https://causes.coop.co.uk/?fbclid=IwAR1zoY1NnKRkSfPEcXuDTd-dH3UpETnVvGY4J-5n3C1nETqNhUFLE-9mXb4>



Do you know a local cause that needs funding?



It's what we do

Woking Shed update

This article concerns Woking Men Shed's partnership with Anchor Homes, support from UK Men's Shed Association and finding premises for Sheds

In these times of doom and gloom I am pleased to be able to pass on some good news - our first log cabin arrived at West Hall this morning!

After many months of ups and downs things are now coming together. The second Shed (the workshop) is in production as I write this and will also be with us in a few weeks.

We were greeted with knee-high weeds around our foundations when we went to West Hall this morning, but a strimmer will make short work of them.

Like a lot of organisations we have been keeping together with Zoom meetings but the conversation can now change from "*what have you made this week*" to "*are you on Shed building this week!*" I think morale is about to take a huge leap upwards.

During this time, I have been bashing out further funding applications. There is now another £3,500.00 for the war chest, with other opportunities still to follow so we can be confident that the project remains well funded. We are hoping to get permission to return to West Hall shortly and start assembling, taking advantage of the good weather. I think we can finally contemplate an opening ceremony!! Kind regards to all

<https://www.facebook.com/wokingshed/> - **Kit Duffy**



Goodie bags – Bitterne Shed Club

I'm the treasurer of Bitterne Shed Club (Southampton) and thought you might be interested in our recent experience.

We've been going, and growing, for over two years with a membership of over 20, with most aged over 70. Our old Shed located in the local Parish Church grounds was becoming too small to accommodate our regular 14 or so attendees. So, after obtaining grants and loans, we purchased a refurbished shipping container. Our plan was to utilize the skills and experience of our members to fit donated cupboards, construct sturdy benches from recycled wood and create a social area, thereby transforming the unit into our new 5 star Shed. The container was delivered and located on our site on 23 March but alas Covid-19 lockdown was imposed within that week so our regular Shed sessions had to be abandoned. To date, the unit has sat alone, isolated, waiting for work to commence - just like our members.

During this period of lockdown our committee was concerned for the mental and physical health of those members who live alone, maybe without outside space and no regular social contact. After instigating a rota for telephone contact between members, we came across a national charity - The Bring Joy Foundation - who were also concerned about the effect enforced isolation could have on elderly people. The Foundation were offering small grants to relevant community groups enabling them to 'bring joy' to their lonely members. We applied and very promptly the Foundation granted us £250 to provide our isolated members with a selection of puzzle books, craft kits, jig-saws and luxury treats. After searching the internet for suppliers, most of whom had already run out of stock, our committee managed to create around 20 'goodie bags' which were then delivered - with appropriate social distancing - to our members, bringing great joy! <https://sites.google.com/view/bitterneshedclub>

Hugh Robinson, Treasurer- Bitterne Shed Clu





Shedders before lockdown

Romsey Men's Shed

In these days of social distancing and lockdown, how does a local charity like Romsey Men's Shed continue to combat social isolation? Although our members can't meet at the Shed or go out to community projects, they have taken to modern technology to continue the work of the Shed. We would normally meet at our base at Romsey School, but since lockdown we now meet online with Zoom. Now more than 20 members connect each Thursday morning – keeping in touch, talking about our online activities and sharing lockdown tips

Romsey Men's Shed is a group of around 50 mainly older men who aim to have fun doing things together and getting involved in the community. We have a well-equipped workshop where members work together on practical projects that benefit local organisations. And our extension is a place to chat and relax, and quieter activities.

In the weeks of lockdown, we have started a number of exciting and creative online ways to keep the spirit of the Shed alive and isolation at bay. There have been photo competitions with topics such as – View from my window, Three of a Kind, and Spring. Well over 100 photos were uploaded to our Flickr account and members voted on their favourites. Members have made items at home such as bat boxes, hedgehog home and bird tables. There are also bug hotels to keep youngsters occupied by filling them with twigs, cones and other items gathered on family walks. All items are on sale at the local Coop with nearly £500 raised for the local NHS charity.



Members are also scouring their garages for spare familiar items such as locks, bolts, and switches. Known as 'fidget boards', the idea is to mount these on boards to help local people with dementia or stroke to keep practising their motor skills. In the tradition of boys' action comics, budding RMS authors are writing serial stories. Each member writes a few paragraphs of a story ending in an exciting cliffhanger, and then forwards to the next person on the list to continue the story. Two mysteries have been completed so far.

We enjoy working for the benefit of the community and completed more than 30 practical projects around Romsey in 2019. We've made planters, fixed shelves, decorated rooms, and repaired play equipment - all for local organisations that help the young, old and families. We've helped at the Mayor's picnic, the relay marathon and other community events. On the last Saturday of each month we run a Repair Shed where people bring in small items for repair. So far people have brought in around 150 items - and we repaired 85% of them. <https://www.romseymensshed.org.uk/what-we-do>

Malcolm Kaill, Chair, Romsey Men's Shed

Online Weekly Meeting



Restoring the ROG play train



Repair Shed



The Workshop



Project Shield: Appeal for donations

Church Crookham and Fleet Men's Shed has rallied a team of volunteers from among its members, and their families, to form Project Shield – making full-face shields (protective visors) for carers, free of charge.

The idea for this project was put forward by our Secretary Shedder, Robert, and Project Shield was born to make full-face visors using 3D printers. For the last few weeks, Robert has been operating five 3D printers and producing full-face visor headbands 24/7.

In a team effort involving nine Sheddors working from home or at the Shed, we make complete sets of shields, including spare visors, ready for delivery in emergency packs sized to support the immediate needs of the customer.

Working from home we also have a 'call centre team' of four, whose backgrounds include the clinical and care sectors, who make calls to care homes or similar establishments within the Hampshire and Surrey borders. As awareness of our project increases, we are also receiving direct request from organisations in need.

We have the support of Hart Voluntary Action (HVA) who then either deliver locally using volunteers or, for extended journeys, will transfer them to an NHS volunteer logistics team to complete. We are also collaborating closely with Yateley Men's Shed who are also busy with visor production.

We aim to make and deliver at least 120 sets per week and at the last count have produced 512 sets which have been provided free of charge to 48 care provider organisations. This includes 22 care homes in our area who provide care and nursing to the most vulnerable in our society, providing services for the elderly, dementia, learning and physical disability to name a few. We have also supplied sets to a mental health recovery service, first responders, a GP practice, local school, children's services, hospice, crisis centre and disability care charity. Our furthest distant customers are in Scarborough!

The funds that have been donated to us to date from our fantastic loyal band of followers is diminishing rapidly as our coverage areas and output ramps up. We are raising awareness of our project among local communities and businesses to raise much needed funds to support our efforts for the next two months, a material cost alone in excess of £2400.

So, we are asking for your support. Each visor costs approximately £3 to make so £30 enables us to support one care provider in the area. If you can support us with a donation, please visit our web site at www.ccandfmensshed.org.uk where you will find a donate button linked to our secure PayPal account. Every amount helps, so together we can help our vulnerable families and the staff who are dedicated to care for them.

Church Crookham and Fleet Men's Shed has been established since February 2017 and like all Men's Sheds, it's primary aim is to help combat loneliness and promote wellbeing within typically the older man, although our membership is open to all from 18 upwards.

We have our own purpose-built workshop located in Church Crookham where under normal circumstances we meet twice a week and get involved in all sorts of projects either for ourselves or for other community groups including pre-, infant and junior schools, childminders and conservation groups. With amazing generosity, three of our recent 3D printer acquisitions have come directly from donations by companies or individuals.

To contact us, please email info@ccandfmensshed.org.uk



A story from Chippenham Shed

Graham Coe belongs to the Chippenham Men's Shed and, since joining, his Tuesdays have been a great time for him. As a chef in the army and civvy street following three strokes he was finding it hard to fit into a group of similar-aged men. His social worker suggested he try Men's Sheds. There was a meeting in our town hall where he met the members and decided that it was for him - he joined and quickly settled in. Graham makes cakes biscuits and cookies for the meetings in the cricket pavilion.

The Shed have an allotment that was very wet and overgrown. Trevor Eason had started clearing the weeds after the lockdown was eased, shortly afterwards Graham joined in. I never see him as off he goes to the allotment 09.30am and returns home about 12.30pm. The plan is to make the allotment user-friendly for the members who have learning / mobility/ other disabilities. Both Trevor and Graham have been busy with looking for builders who can help make sure the allotment is safe for everyone. One day Trevor and Graham had a break during the heat, I found Graham dancing in our garden - he was doing the hippy shake ☺

Mrs Coe



Trevor and Graham

That which binds us...

This piece of work [see below] is now installed at the Devon Sculpture Park, south of Exeter. The Park displays contemporary and conceptual sculpture that is concerned with environmental change. I use found and natural materials and use machinery and techniques to develop a visual narrative. I recently completed a three-year degree in Fine Art and, as a retired landscaper, able to work with metal, stone and wood I have a great time conjuring with concepts and ideas. I try to produce work that at times has some elegance, has been made by my own hands, and creates a story that explores in a different way, non-fictional or political questions. It is important for me that my work engages with people hence the work often involves participation or performance. This helps me to hear insights and perspectives that are often barely expressed. With a broader outreach like this our compassion grows.

When I started this piece, I hadn't fully realised quite what broader symbolism it would have. In the beginning it was about our relationship to the natural world, but people's responses have taken it to another level and now that has become part of its story, e.g. our vicar has asked if it can be in the church when it reopens. The wood I used, Oak, Yew and Sycamore came from the middle of Brittany. I didn't know at the time but the yew was one of the very few left in this part of Brittany after the invasion by the Germans. It was only in the remote parts that they didn't clear valuable timber.

Starting the final stage of this work on VE Day my work has taken on an entirely different significance. The work will be used as a fund-raiser, not sure how, for charity and it couldn't be anything other than for those that bind us, mend us, heal us together.

Colin Porter

Colinporterlandscapes.weebly.com | Devonsculpturepark.org | <https://www.denbighmensshed.org/>





In the News

Dingwall 'craft village' scheme offers post-lockdown ray of hope; Dingwall Men's Shed stalwarts hailed for creative hub vision

<https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/crafty-plan-will-pump-fresh-life-into-ross-shires-county-town-201193/>

Men's shed group in Hampshire produce over 500 visors for frontline workers

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/mens-shed-group-in-hampshire-produce-over-500-visors-for-frontline-workers/>

Kent Sheds Support Grows and Thrives Thanks to Digital Tech

<https://kccmediahub.net/kent-sheds-support-grows-and-thrives-thanks-to-digital-tech745>

| Warrington property company launches £3m national community fund

<https://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk/2020/05/14/warrington-property-company-launches-3m-national-community-fund/>

'Virtual Shed' keeps members connected and combats loneliness

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/virtual-shed-keeps-members-connected-and-combats-loneliness/>

Monthly Puzzle Challenge!

Word Puzzle

The words below all fit into the grid.

3 letter words

NUT
SAW
AXE

4 letter words

BOLT
NAIL

5 letter words

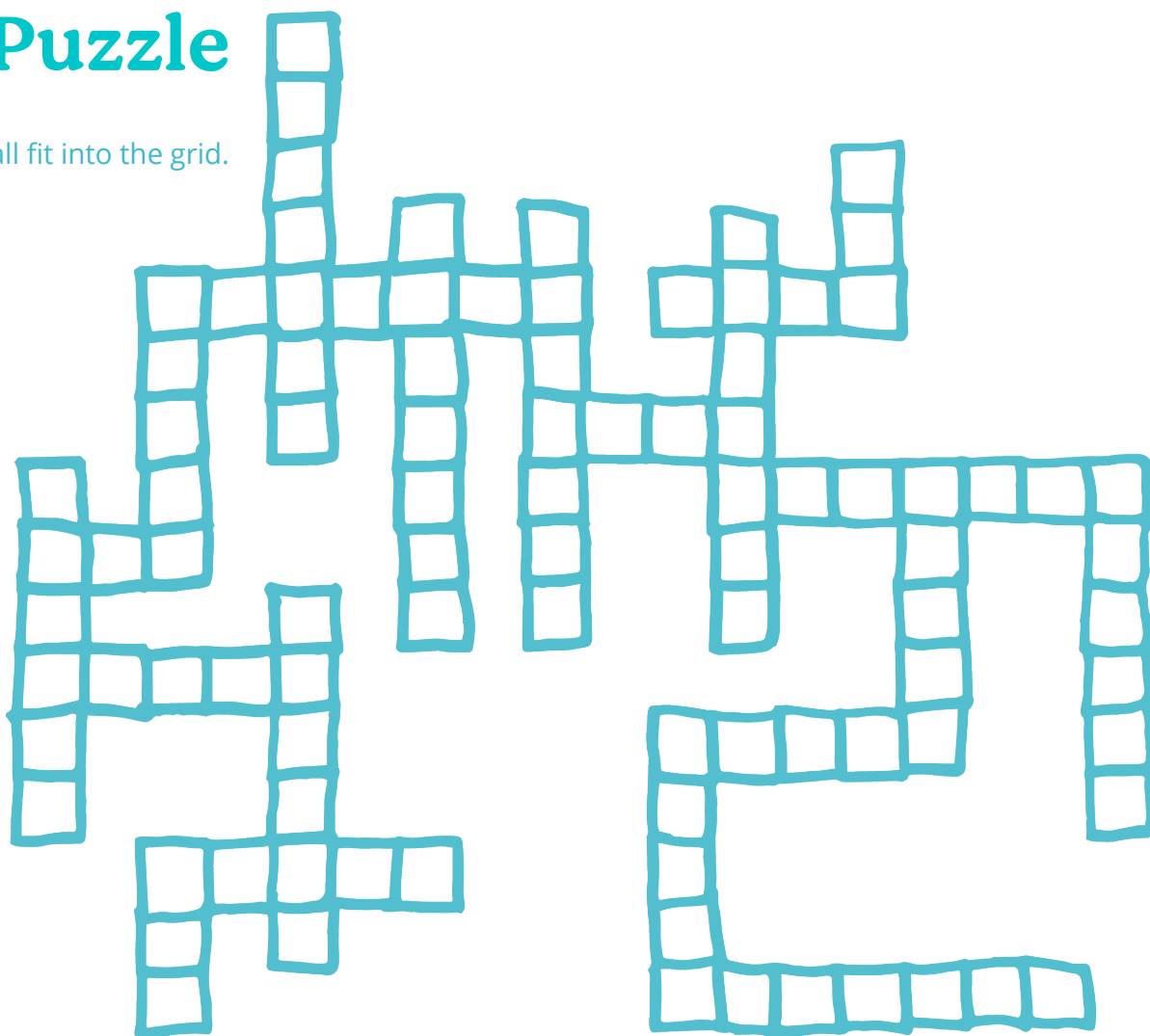
SCREW
KNIFE
DRILL
BRACE
PLANE

6 letter words

WRENCH
HAMMER
PLIERS
LADDER

7 letter words

BRADAWL
HANDSAW
TOOLBOX
PLUNGER
BACKSAW
PICKAXE
HACKSAW



Shedoku

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

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

May Shedoku answers

May Word Puzzle answers

The words below
all fit into the grid.
Think you've got
what it takes to
crack it?

3 LETTERS

PPE

NHS

4 letters

Zoom

Shed

Poem

5 LETTERS

Phone

Money

Fruit

6 LETTERS

Visors

7 LETTERS

Railway

8 LETTERS

Wireless

Froomfm (sic)

9 LETTERS

Snailmail

Freebooks

Dodecagon

Deardiary

10 LETTERS

Vegetables

Keyworkers

Portacabin

11 LETTERS

Chatterpack

ShedHappens

Buddysystem

15 LETTERS

Easyfundraising

Blindwoodturner

Word Puzzle

