



# OUR HIMS SHEET #52

## NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF HAYLING ISLAND MEN'S SHED 19 April 2024.

Record of speeches at the AGM yesterday.

Retiring, caretaker Chairs

### Introduction.

Keith and I reported at the EGM that 2023 has been a successful year. We (that's all members - you) have brought the Shed out of the build and fitting out stage and dodged Covid to commission a fully operational Shed. You, the Shedders, are to be congratulated.

2023 was not all flat, calm waters, however. Towards the end of the year, our Chairman - Chris Dean resigned and the membership asked, via an EGM, the present committee to continue until an AGM could be held. Keith and I would act as joint Chairs of the caretaker committee. All of the present committee wishes to state that we were Chris's committee and we did, and still do, fully support him and everything he did. We have tried to continue the strategy and activities that Chris and this committee had planned. Chris was the reason the first 10 - 11 months worked out so well. We, the committee, jointly agreed to make our committee smaller and lighter on its feet. We also wanted to make sure that everything that happened in the Shed was the product of the member's planning and implementation, not just the committee. We wanted to Spread the Load and give you guys ownership of our shed's growth. It worked. Apart from a Registered Charity 1169439

small minority, members have praised Chris for delivering a Happy and liberal community.

(Chris was presented with a small gift from the Shed to mark his hard work. Ben and the Turners made a beautiful gavel from various types and colours of wood.

**Activities.** We now enjoy a range of activities in all parts of the shed. Joinery, Woodturning, metalworking, Design and Engineering, Art, Card games, model making, and the making of beautiful pens and musical instruments. Our range of activities is what makes us a successful Shed. These people, doing their thing is what makes the Shed tick.

### **Tidiness and Health and Safety.**

From the very early days of 2023, we realised that accidents were waiting to happen, both inside and outside the Shed, particularly in the workshop mainly because of a lack of space in which to store our materials. We set about cleaning and tidying. There is still a lot to do and Keith, with Dave Clark and a small group of volunteers, are continuing to tidy. A clean and tidy Shed should be a safer Shed.

### **Fundraising.**

Jim will report on our finances, but I don't think he will contradict me when I say that this year a large proportion of our money came from fundraising and donations. The credit for this success lies firmly at Keith's door. He has come up with so many ideas to raise funds and then worked tirelessly with his steady band of contributors to make them happen. We have had tabletop sales, auctions, and display tables at many third-party events, including our scarecrow. The profits made at each of these events have made our treasurer smile. But Keith would be the first to say that the contributions, in the production of items to sell and all the help he received in staging the events certainly did help Spread the Load.

We have also sold some of our surplus tools at a profit, the record for one item is £177, sold by Keith and then on the same day he sold a second item for £100.

None of us should underestimate the value that Keith adds to the shed. All the time and effort he has given to the Workshop and the kitchen and lounge area has been invaluable.

**Community.** Over the past five years, I have said many times in the Hayling Herald, that our Shed aspired to be a big part of our Island community. This Shed has done a huge amount for the local people. I include work for Wave, HVS (particularly Les). LOCAL SCHOOLS the Fence in Mengham.the Horticultural Society and even the local medical centre. I know that I am going to leave somebody out but those who made all this possible included Les, Barry, Gerry, all of the Peters, Bob, Chris, Keith, Melanie,

Malcolm and John. All of these people have truly raised much-needed funds and also raised our visibility in the community.

Our Community work was truly the whole of our Shed working together for the benefit of others.

**Social.** Our social program has grown. Your committee said right from the start of the year that if you want to do something, clear it with a committee member, and DO IT. Do not expect the committee to do it for you. In a flash "Ray's Tours" was born. Ray has organised trips to local attractions throughout 2023. Shedders use their own or shared transport. The trips are Self-funded and Self-organised. These Shedders made what it was they wanted to do happen. Well done Ray and thank you.

Now these tours are catching on. There is a demand for more distant trips. Our Shed will team with the Horticultural Society to share a coach to Hampton Court Gardens and another to Hever Castle this summer. BUT there is no sign of a week in the Caribbean - yet!

Life would not be the same without Gerry's famous BBQ and thanks to him we had a great time during the summer. I understand these events may be monthly in 2024. Put all this together with Christmas Dinner, Christmas teas and other ad-hoc items in the Shed and in the URC and 2023 has seen a full social calendar.

You have invested in your Shed with your hard work and innovative thinking. We have many people who give their services and Spare Time to the Shed. You don't often hear of them, they're just quietly getting on with the job. They are dedicated to spreading the load

All these services mean some Shedders do a lot of extra work.

Welfare Keith,

IT Derek Barton

Web Site, Tony, Derek.

First Aid Peter Edwards, Mick Vickers

Catering manager. Peter Hales

Security

Training

Safeguarding

Help Desk

Thank you to all of these people.

I save my final remarks to mention three items worthy of our special attention.

The United Reformed Church - without you, our neighbours there would be so much we could not do. Thank you for your help and support.

Transport. Robin. You and your little blue van have had a part to play in almost everything we do. You are indispensable - thank you, Robin.

My colleagues.

Keith. I have already talked about him, he is terrific. Thanks to Beefy the art group has expanded to two days a week - well done Keith - and thank you to the art group. This growth in our activities spells success.

Caroline and Jim are the silent hard-working and dedicated part of your committee. They do the admin and financial work, often in their own time, that every organisation needs, particularly a charity but they do not attract the attention and thanks of many people. When we have tea it's your chance to show your appreciation.

Thank you.

## The Words of our Treasurer

HIMSA Treasurers report y/e 31<sup>st</sup> Decemberr 2023

Financially it's been a good year and production of end product has been racing ahead. Previous years have been hampered by start up costs and latterly by Covid but that has all been absorbed and consigned to history.

Personally I have noticed a great deal of good humour and banter which must be a sign that things are going reasonably well . Tea money collections have been at a record level and if you have not been kept busy in the machine shop or the art studio many hours have been wittered away discussing the more important matters of state and drinking tea.

Caroline has filled us in on the membership figures (58 paid to date)so it is no down to me to bore you to sleep on the figures

The big figure is of course donations up from £2,300 to £6,000 . Unfortunately we did not get sponsorship for the van insurance this year but we were well able to absorb that loss.

We spent about a £1,000 more on workshop equipment and about £1,000 less on first aid equipment .Project costs have of course increased though greater use of materials which were used to enable the increase in Donations for projects completed.

The above enabled a surplus of £2788 (p/y £1,361) for the year

I am therefore pleased to report we are in a very healthy cash position

Finally my thanks to David Adams for casting his expert eye over the books and signing them off without adjustment.

Questions ?

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## The Words of brand spanking, new, Chairman

I don't think I said those immortal words once spoken by Arnold Schwarzenegger, 'I'll be back' when I stood down as your chairman 2 years ago,. I was not anticipating, eager or even expecting to return, but here I am

Some of you may be disappointed whilst others may be less disappointed about it. We all know you can't please everyone all of the time, I just hope I can please most of you, some of the time.

Having said I wasn't anticipating or eager to return to the role, I am very happy to do so, for 2 reasons. Firstly, It may not be Shangri-La, it may not be perfect, nothing ever is, but I love this Shed and what has been achieved since some of us first had the crazy idea of starting one. I love our little community and the friendships that have been created over the last 8 years. Whether you have been part of it for a long time or relatively new, you have all played a part in what we have.

My old mate, mucker, and fellow founder Tony, who at the time was our secretary once wrote in a HIMS newsletter back in 2016, 'If a men's Shed is just a building, then it is hollow and lifeless, but if a Men's Shed is a group of likeminded individuals that wish to stay active, then it is the beating heart of the Shed'.

Over this last year, those whom you elected to run our Shed, and have elected them again to continue, deserve our thanks for keeping that heart beating, More importantly they deserve our support which leads me to my 2nd reason.

I have valued the work that our management team have put in this last year. I hope Caroline and Jim won't mind if I single out Nik and Keith. They both bring different skills; skills and commitment which this Shed needs, which would be lost if they weren't around. The Shed could manage without a Chairman for the next 300 days till the next AGM, but it would put a big load on their shoulders and quite likely to cause burn out for both. We could lose them and what they bring to this Shed.

I didn't want that to happen which is why I put myself forward to be part of the management committee. I want to support each of them and help share the load. I want to see our Shed flourish in every way possible. I said just now, it may not be perfect, it probably isn't, and it may never be, but that doesn't mean we can't stop trying to achieve something close to perfection, something where all of us enjoy being a part of this Shed.

Which is where you lot come in. I could be quite a few quid richer if I had a pound for every time you have been told by various people from this table, this is your Shed and you all have a responsibility in helping it function. I was disappointed and a little sad to see a message had to be stuck on the kitchen door saying if there isn't t c m and b, go and buy some. Don't complain, Don't wait for someone else to do it, you don't have to pay for it yourself, use the tea club money. That's one example of all of us having a responsibility in helping the Shed to function.

I read once a chairman's address should not be more than a thousand words. So far excluding this bit, its 575, so I'm good for another 425. So to my tenure in office and the year ahead.

I've always believed, Shed success equals Shed autonomy. That means activities determined by choices. Choices made by yourselves. Your management committee is responsible for the administrative functions in running this Shed. It is also there to listen to your choices and do whatever they can to meet them.

Nik coined the title 'Town Hall Meetings' a while back and I believe we should continue hold them from time to time. We will keep the same open forum format as last time. No set agenda. You decide what needs to be discussed. Ideas, events, suggestions. The management committee will meet in early May and one thing on the agenda is to set a date to hold one. When you're given that date, we would like you to either send or tell us in advance of anything you would like the meeting to discuss.

New incentives/activities. Just recently a second art group started on another day. A day for those who wanted to learn or enhance their skills. Brilliant. I'm hoping to see the same happen in the workshop. A day of instruction for those who want to learn or enhance present skills in woodwork. In addition to Ben's woodturning group, I want to set up a morning or an afternoon where, whilst making something, members can learn how to assemble their work using different joints. In addition, you will also get instruction on the use of the bigger and more dangerous bits of equipment in the workshop in order to do whatever it is you're making. It will also go somewhere to compiling a list of trained and authorised members in the use that equipment.

Talking of lists, on the Shed notice board in the social area is a list of members who represent the different aspects of the Shed. I'm not sure what that little team's remit was or is. I believe it is important for the success and harmony of what's happening in our Shed, for us all to know what is going on, what is being planned or thought about.

When the Shed emerged from Covid lockdowns, we created a Shed team with members from the different activities in the Shed. Art, workshop, woodturning, metal work, transport etc. We met every Monday at 10 for about half an hour to share information of what we're doing or going to do. We each went back to our different groups and spread the information. It was very successful.

I would like to recreate that team with those named on that list and anyone else who would like to join them. Ideally it would be good for the team to meet say once a week or every other week, but that maybe asking too much of individuals time. So for the time being, I will try to liaise with as many of you as I can each week and you can always leave me a message in the chairman's tray in the Shed.

The last thing I want to cover and bring to everyone's notice is Shed conduct. You all know why I am here so let's leave it there. All Men's Sheds have a code of conduct in place. Along with the usual, no alcohol, smoking or drugs, they also cover mental, physical, and verbal abuse. Our Shed is no different, we have the same code of conduct and we expect every member to adhere to it. It's part of our Shed rules which when signing your membership application form, you agree to. We also have an adult safe guarding policy which echoes the code of conduct in respect of abuse and a procedure of dealing with any complaint made.

I used the word harmony in the Shed just now. Let me say quite clearly, we will not tolerate any kind of abuse. Anyone offending the code of conduct will be spoken to, warned and if serious, will have membership withdrawn and asked to leave.

Sorry to end on a serious note but it had to be said and I sincerely hope we don't have such a situation to deal with.

I know I have exceeded the 425 words I had left so let me apologise for that and end with a promise that I will serve you all to the best of my ability that my little grey cells will allow and wish every member of our Shed a fun, enjoyable, healthy year ahead.