#### October 2017

# Street Shed News



- Shed opening times
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# Welcome to the first edition of the Street Men's Shed Newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you, our members and partners, up to date with what is going on in our Shed. We are now getting to a point where we are ready to open more often. We have been opening on Tuesday mornings for the past few weeks, but now we are intending to open on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

We have got to this stage because of the kind donations of workbenches and tools from several members Including Keith Hooper and Mike Smith as well as the core of 8 - 10members who have turned out to do the work of tidying up, moving scaffolding and setting out the benches etc. You all deserve a big thank you.

What's next? We need to get the partition wall and the area where we want to put the toilet sorted out as soon as possible; we have had several kitchen units

donated as well as a sink. We are working closely with The Royal voluntary Service (RVS) and McCarthy Stone builders to get the 'Social' area sorted out, both water and electrics need to be moved to accommodate our needs with at least 7 double power sockets needed, as someone said 'you can never have to many electrical sockets'. Fingers crossed that this can be all done before the end of November.

## Shed opening times

We have been opening on Tuesday mornings for the last four weeks; we have had several members ask for an afternoon opening as well as they can't make it on a Tuesday. So we have decided to open on **Thursday afternoons from Thursday 19th October 2017.** 

Opening times are very dependent on the availability of a competent person to supervise the session, to comply with our insurance we must have a first aid trained person in attendance whenever the shed is open. We hope to get more people trained as soon as we can but it all takes time and planning, as well as finding someone to train us!

Please check the web site for any changes, Emails will also be sent out if anything changes.

The new opening times will be:

Tuesdays 09:00 till 13:00

Thursdays 12:30 till 16:30



8<sup>th</sup> August 2017 The start of the dream.



10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 What a difference

## **Funding & grants**

Funding has so far been quite successful, we have applied and received grants totaling £3000 from the Somerset Community Foundation and Street Parish council. These grants are going a long way to getting us started and on a solid footing for our future.

We have also applied for grants from Cosyfeet, Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (A&SPCC).

Why A&SPCC? What has Sue Mountstevens got to do with Men's Sheds?

Well, part of the PCC's remit is to promote the problems of vulnerable people in the community, this of course includes the

section of the community that we are here to support; the older male who maybe isolated, lonely and in need of support. So, on that premise we have applied for a grant from her community fund.

The third grant application that we have ongoing at the moment is from the RVS I spoke of earlier, we have applied for a grant of £1000 through the RVS from ASDA Community Foundation which also includes free tradesmen from McCarthy Stone to do any work in the shed, electrical, plumbing etc.

There are other grants available which we will tap into as and when we have the final plan for the work we need to do.



Mind you language gentelmen! The Chairmans wife Veronica and her friend Lyn drop in for coffee.

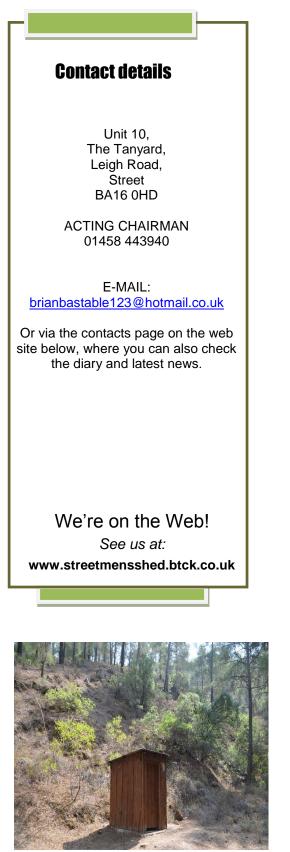
## Membership

The membership is looking healthy with around 50 names on our contact list, what we need from the membership now is the first year's subscription to ensure that we meet our monthly outgoings, rent, utilities etc.

The amount is set at £24 a year which will be confirmed at our first AGM (more of Later). We would be grateful if all who want to be members complete the membership form and pay their subs as soon as possible. This will

greatly help with financial planning and stop us having to use the grants for rent etc.

The session charge of £3 for a 4 hour session will be collected at the start of the session and donations are asked for to go towards tea/coffee etc.



When is a shed not a shed? Answers on the back of a £5 note to the Chairman!

### The future

The continuing success of our shed will depend on the membership participating and using the shed we have worked hard to make what it is today.

This also means that we cannot sit back and expect everything to work like clockwork; we will need to work, promote and support our shed so that it stays successful for many years to come.

The work planned on the 'social area' with kitchen,

seating and tables etc. should be done within a month or so if the offer by the RVS & McCarthy Stone goes through so that we can concentrate on projects that members want to do as soon as possible.

We are trying to arrange an AGM for mid-November and members have suggested a Christmas get together, we are open to suggestions for venues for both events.

#### Web Site

As most of you will probably know, we have a web site hosted FREE by BT. It is a small but well set out site that is perfectly adequate for our needs. It contains a diary which is up-dated weekly, links to other web sites of interest to shedders (Still work in progress), a Gallery of photos, a 'who we are' page and a news section.

News of our opening times will be posted on the front page as will any changes or news. There is also a 'contact us' page for contacting the Acting Chairman if you lose his contact details.

The BT web site is free to non-profit making organisations, so if anyone has a club or other organisations that needs a simple web site please contact Brian Bastable for more information.

#### **Local papers**

We will from time to time be using the local papers, Central Somerset Gazette, Basis and LocalReach to advertise ourselves, ask for help and recruit members. If you have any photos of the shed or take photos of what projects you may do in the shed please let us have a copy so we can add it to any articles we may put in the papers.

Also if any member finds information in any local papers about funding becoming available or anything that may be relevant to our shed then please let the Acting Chairman know.