

which would have been more accessible for users but it is on the local bus route and it was deemed usable for their purposes. A bank account was created and a development and business plan was written and submitted with the stage 2 part of the Community Asset Transfer to the council.

During this period many funding applications were completed, many were not successful but some were and the men managed to attract enough funding to convert the Shed into a very professional workshop and hobby area. To date the men have had support from over twenty-five donors which in itself is a major win for the funding committee and also shows the level of national and local support for their Men's Shed. The majority of the workshop conversion was again done by the men of the Shed. It was officially opened by Aberdeenshire's Provost Hamish Vernal in January 2016.



The next stage of development to focus on is the two porta cabins which have been delivered. These will be completely gutted and refitted to create the social space, kitchen and toilets. They also need a roof to protect the two cabins which have now been joined to create one space. Funding for this part of the project is ongoing.

The three years I have been supporting and encouraging the men has flown by but nevertheless I hope that the overall process of creating Men's Sheds will become quicker. It is an incredible ask of a group of people who don't know each other to stick together to create something which will not only benefit their lives but men, families and communities they haven't even met - and all done by volunteering themselves. I am so glad that there are people in our communities in Scotland who have what it takes to create these amazing spaces and blaze a new trail to improve our country's social health in such a selfless way. The comradery and banter is always evident as these talented local men roll up their sleeves and create a wonderful place where mentoring, upskilling, relaxation and friendships are to be nurtured and enjoyed. This is the second of Aberdeenshire Men's Sheds to open since 2013 and it's a real benefit to the Inverurie and district communities and a real credit to the men and their many supporters.

For more info: www.inveruriemensshed.co.uk

Become a member for free of the Scottish Men's Sheds Association – www.scottishmsa.org.uk