The Gathering 2018 – a fantastic opportunity to spread the word of the Men’s Shed Movement in Scotland

What a busy couple of days we had in February when we attended ‘The Gathering’, a conference held at the SEC in Glasgow organised by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

Jason, Rhona, our Chairman Derek, Treasurer Charlie and Dave from Kennoway Shed spoke to over 220 people over the two days (10% of the total attendees). Our stand being everything Men Shed caught the eye of the thousands of delegates who attended the two day conference.

It was really encouraging to find out that so many other organisations and individual attendees knew about the SMSA and/or of Men’s Sheds in their area. We had so many interesting and supportive conversations for what we are inspiring and supporting across Scotland - a grass roots voluntary empowered movement.

This is the first time SMSA has attended the event and found it useful to network with other organisations and individuals from many sectors. Good contacts have been made and partnerships will be developed over the coming year to keep driving the Men’s Sheds movement forward.

It was also great to catch up with some Shedders who were attending from Sheds around the Glasgow area, Fife and Ayrshire. Our esteemed previous Chairman Brian Mackay from Helensburgh Men’s Shed also stopped by for a blether. All in all, it was a full on couple of days for all involved and the Scottish Men’s Sheds Movement. Roll on The Gathering 2019!
A PEEK INSIDE SHEDS

There’s so much more going on in Scotland Men’s Sheds than the traditional mending and making. See for yourself...

Lights, Camera, Action!

Kinross Men’s Shed received a donation of photography studio equipment and turned it into a project for their Shed. A successful funding bid for £2,000 meant they could add additional equipment including a laptop. Shedder Glen said “The ‘Photography’ Equipment will not just engage Shedders with the principles and artistic side of photography but educate them on computing and editing technology, as well as getting them out and about taking photos ”.

The Shed, ever keen to find different ways of fundraising now plan to create a 2019 Shed Calendar from start to finish.

Trimming off the ends

What multi-talented bunch they are at Dunoon Men’s Shed. Here’s Jim showing off his barber skills and shearing another Shedders long flowing locks.... better watch out Jason, you might be next!

Rapping to the beat of the Shed

This is a fantastic piece of promotion for Dunoon Men’s Shed! Shedder Steve Barnard created and starred in this witty rap with fellow Shedders and puppets. Click on the picture or visit at https://youtu.be/wTDEur6eNz0?t=24

A magnificent man in his flying machine!

Perth & Kinross Shedders were kept enthralled by a talk by George Bell, who recently shared his experiences building the Zenith 701 two seater aeroplane. Word is you could have heard a pin drop as he went through the process with all of the hiccups along the way.

Do you do something different in your Shed? Let us know about it.

Contact: comms@scottishmsa.org.uk or call Rhona on 07389061498
FUNDING MATTERS

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AS A WAY TO GET FUNDING FOR YOUR MEN’S SHED

We look at how Participatory budgeting (PB) is changing the way funding is spent at a local level.

Firstly, a bit of an explanation as to what PB is. Andrew Paterson, Policy and Research Officer from Scottish Community Development Centre & Community Health Exchange explains:

“Participatory budgeting (PB) simply put, means local people have a direct say on how funding is spent. It can be any type of budget, but normally involves members of the community deciding through a voting process how to spend part of the budget of a public agency such as a local authority.”

PB has really taken off in Scotland over the last few years, supported by the Scottish Government’s Community Choices fund, which has helped local authorities and community organisations to organise PB in their local areas. In most cases this has consisted of community events, where voluntary organisations and community groups have bid for funding with local people getting to decide which projects get funded.

There are two ways that Men’s Sheds in Scotland might be interested in taking part in PB:

Firstly, you could find out where local PB is being planned and apply to bid for funding – you would normally have to think of a specific project or piece of work that would need funding and make a pitch for this. Keith and District Men’s Shed successfully bid for funding in last year’s Money for Moray PB event. In the Perth area Kinross Men’s Shed successfully bid for £1,500 in 2017 and a further £2,000 was awarded in March 2018 when they were voted the number 1 project in their area.

Secondly, you could think about helping to organise PB locally, possibly with other local organisations. Most community-led PB programmes have received funding from Community Choices.

Some current initiatives are listed here, although many will have closed for applications since the financial year finishes at the end of March. However, this is one that is worth keeping an eye on when next year’s funding is announced.

You can sign up with PB Scotland for free to be first to know of future developments. It might also be useful to contact your local authority to find out whether any future PB events are being planned and get on their mailing lists.

“PB lets you know that your community is behind you. It’s also a way for your Shed to make lots of new friends and prospective members as well as hooking up with other groups in your area”.

Roy Gilmour Treasurer of Kinross & District Men’s Shed

CORRA FOUNDATION - HENRY DUNCAN GRANTS

This grant-making programme supports grassroots charities operating in Scotland

To apply, charities must be delivering programmes or services which are clearly focused on improving the quality of life for members of the community facing disadvantage.

One-off awards of up to £7,000 are made to charities for core funding, such as running costs or salaries, or project funds and they will also consider applications for small capital costs such as equipment. Fort William and Shettleston have previously received grants in the region of £3k

For more information and an application pack, visit their website.

Next closing date 21/5/18

Share your funding successes with other Sheds
Contact: comms@scottishmsa.org.uk or call Rhona on 07389061498
FUNDING MATTERS Cont.

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

Jewson’s support projects up and down the country through their Building Better Communities prize fund.

How much is up for grabs?

There is a top regional prize of £50k for labour & building and several prizes of between £500 and £10,000.

How to apply

Applications open on 27th March to 5th May 2018. The process seems straightforward enough. Simply submit 300 words about your project and provide some photos and videos to bring your entry to life. Full details can be found on their website.

APPLY TO BE A CO-OP LOCAL CAUSE

The Co-op Community Fund is now open for groups to apply for a share of it’s 2018/19 funding pot.

Preference is given to projects run by small, local organisations that make a real difference to people in their community – that’s your Men’s Shed!

You have until 8 April 2018 to complete your application. To apply online visit their website where you will also find full terms and conditions including details of how the fund works.

Men’s Sheds that we know have been lucky with this fund in the past include Barrhead and Ellon.

LOTTERY WINNERS

Carse of Gowrie is the latest Scottish Men’s Shed to come up trumps by successfully applying for funding through the Big Lottery Award for All Scotland scheme. The Shed received £9,990 in February for more equipment to meet growing demand for the wood turning, woodworking, and engineering lessons they offer to men. This is the second time the Shed has received funding from Awards for All Scotland. Details on how to apply for the fund can be found here.

Become a member of the Scottish Men’s Sheds Association

By becoming a Shed/Developing Group member and an Individual member of the SMSA you are helping to give the Scottish Men’s Shed movement a louder voice and a more influential role. Some of the benefits are detailed below:

**Shed member - £20 per year**

- Shed Insurance discounts.
- Online access to the Australian Men’s Sheds Association (AMSA) Interactive Manual: this is the quintessential guide for developing and operational Men’s Sheds.
- Moderator access to the SMSA Shed Member Forum on Facebook.
- Telephone and Email support.

**Individual member - FREE**

- Full ‘Log In’ access to our website and all its Shed Guidance and Research download documents.
- Free membership pin and welcome pack.
- Every edition of The Scottish Shedder emailed directly to you, to keep you up to date with all the Shed news.

Apply online by visiting our website: www.scottishmsa.org.uk/join-smsa or see page 12 to get in touch!
The law is changing around Data Protection on the 25 May 2018 – this is D-day.

Since writing a comprehensive article in Edition 2 of The Scottish Shedder I have had enquiries about Sheds and their Data Protection so I thought it would be useful to include an edited down version of that article below. To read the full article visit our online Individual Members Resource library - Ed 2.

The way things stand at the moment, the basics around data protection are:

**You should only have enough information about your members which you need for specific and related purposes.** Most Sheds ask for name, contact details, an emergency contact person, health details e.g. heart condition, diabetic, epilepsy, dementia etc and hobbies and interests. This is all valid info used to keep the Shed running smoothly in compliance if you have a constitution, have become a charity and most importantly looking out for your members in case something happens to them while in the Shed.

You shouldn’t be asking for information on any past or present criminal convictions. For example, if your Shed is open to all men there is no need to have this information and would create exclusion policies which might contravene the law, your constitution and Scottish Charity regulations. Men’s Sheds are about inclusion and we realise this can bring up difficult personal issues for us, but they are personal issues not necessarily legal ones.

Your records of members data should be under lock and key and accessible only to board members and your daily Shed supervisor. If this data is also on a computer we suggest it might be safer to have it on an encrypted external hard drive held by a board member, usually the Secretary of the Shed.

We don’t know exactly what is going to change until this new legislation is passed, so suggest you do your own research and keep up to date with this changing legislation and how it might affect you. We will do the same and revisit this after the 25 May 2018, to see if any of this new legislation affects us and you. For up to date information visit the Information Commissioner’s Office website.

We also suggest downloading “Preparing for the General Data Protection Regulation 12 Steps” which is available in our SMSA online Members Resource Library.

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**What Sheds need to know about data protection** by Jason Schroeder

We have recently merged with Moreland Insurance Brokers and will now be known as Greenwood Moreland Insurance Brokers.

The SMSA website has been updated with our new logo, address and contact details. New details below:

Elaine on 01698 456 512 or email elaine@greenwoodmoreland.co.uk.

**New SMSA Shed Insurance Guidance**

We have helped our SMSA Shed members save hundreds of pounds on their annual insurance policies and ensured that the correct level of cover is in place. For a free quote: Elaine - 01698 456 512/email elaine@greenwoodmoreland.co.uk.
Garnock Valley Men’s Shed

Having secured a temporary occupational licence for a former local authority Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Depot in Kilbirnie Public Park, North Ayrshire the Kilbirnie Shed group are redeveloping the building for community use. Using the Men’s Shed approach and planning to be fully operational by springtime, the group’s aim is to provide free space for men in the Garnock Valley to come together and to address a variety of health and social issues.

A recent advert placed on Facebook for tool donations got an amazing response. Once word got out that there was a community-based project aiming to open up free space, the tools started flooding in. Local businesses are keen to get in on the action.

W & J Knox, a fishing net manufacturing and maintenance company based in Kilbirnie has donated 250 used wooden pallets, which are being disassembled and used to build everything from garden planters to log stores and bird boxes. The group even has plans to build a tea room inside the workshop themed as an authentic log cabin – a clear example of thinking ‘inside the box.’

Another interesting wee development recently is the introduction of a music room inspired by a recent impromptu performance led by our piano man John who comes and offers free keyboard lessons (see page 2). We put a heater in one of the small side rooms for the keyboard lessons and are now looking at decorating it with a musical theme with 3D sheet music on the walls.

Drop-in and see us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 10.00am – 12.30pm. We’d love to see you and share our enthusiasm for bringing men together and building and fixing things for community benefit.

By Stewart Beck, Community Development Officer

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

INVERURIE MEN’S SHED

Who did a great job promoting Scottish Men’s Sheds in an interview for BBC Scotland’s “Our Story” last month. It is now offline and we are trying to get an archive copy for those who missed it. Probably the best no holds barred interview to date and hopefully will be available in our Members online Resource library in the future.

CHARITY STATUS AWARDED TO:

- Eyemouth Men’s Shed
- Bellishill Men’s Shed
- Black Isle Men’s Shed

NEW SMSA SHED MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following Sheds:

- Alford & District
- Auchterarder & District
- Comrie & District Community Shed
- Elgin & District
- Garnock Valley
- Moffat & District
- Aviation Preservation Society of Scotland (APSS) Men’s Shed

NEW MEN’S SHEDS IN DEVELOPMENT:

- Saltcoats
- Inverclyde
- Kinlochleven
- Comrie & District Community

The Scottish Men’s Shed movement continues to grow

1080 SMSA MEMBERS
71 ACTIVE SHEDS
36 IN DEVELOPMENT
24 REGIONS
**SHED PROJECTS TO TRY**

Following on from our Tool Storage Shelf in the last edition, we thought we would continue on the ‘Organised Shed’ theme and bring you two more great storage ideas for your Shed. It is April after all!

![Hammer Holder](image1)

![Tape Dispenser](image2)

Send your ideas for Shed projects to Rhona at: comms@scottishmsa.org.uk

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**WHAT’S BEING MADE IN SCOTLAND'S SHEDS?**

The projects here are just a small sample of the magnificent work Scottish Men’s Sheds do for their local community. Bravo!

![Carnoustie and Monifieth Shed](image3)

Carnoustie and Monifieth Shed proudly show off their own version of a mud kitchen made for their local primary

![Dundee Men’s Shed](image4)

This colourful cart was made by Shedder Sandy Mundy of Peterhead Men’s Shed for a local old folks home. A resident died leaving a request that something be bequeathed to the remaining residents and the deceased’s family decided on the Shoppe Carte. A bit different from a memorial bench.

**Dalbeattie Men’s Shed build a Trebuchet for ‘The path of the little People’**

*Dalbeattie Men’s Shed* made an unusual piece of equipment for Winston Lodge. The Trebuchet or the ‘Winston Warwolf’ as the Shedder’s named it, is a brilliant piece of equipment that will be used as part of a children’s interpretive trail.

Speaking on behalf of Winston Lodge Sarah Wyper, Project Coordinator commented “The Trebuchet is exceptional. Geoff Allison and his team produced a piece of equipment, exactly to the brief outlined, and engineered to an incredibly high standard. We could not be more delighted and had a great time launching the ‘missiles’ across the lawn when it arrived at the start of February”.

![Trebuchet Launch](image5)

See the Trebuchet launch a haggis on Burns night. Think we all want a shot of this one!

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**Made something interesting in your Shed?**

Contact: comms@scottishmsa.org.uk or call Rhona on 07389061498
GAINING ACCESS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND LAND? by Tim Green

The Scottish Men’s Sheds Association and Age Scotland are acutely aware of the challenges faced by Men’s Sheds in accessing affordable and suitable premises.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 appeared to offer a lifeline to Men’s Sheds struggling to find a home for their activities. Across Scotland there is a mixed picture of the difference local authorities are making to the development and sustainability of Men’s Sheds through the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 in general and the Community Asset Transfer process in particular.

We want to know your experiences in securing access to unoccupied and underused public buildings and land in your community. Tell us your Shed’s experiences of local authorities making the process a positive one but also where you have faced barriers and/or blockages in accessing community assets.

Share your stories with me, Tim Green by calling 01383 882 151 / 07718 579 291 or email tim.green@agescotland.org.uk.

Visit the Age Scotland website www.agescotland.org.uk.

Empty buildings like this could house Men’s Sheds – is this happening or not?

SHEDS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Sheds for Sustainable Development (SSD) is a 3 year Big Lottery funded project in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University and the SMSA which will address the issue of sustainability of Sheds in Scotland.

The Project is now well underway and the response from Shedders across Scotland has been fantastic. A big thank you to those who have come forward to take part in the study.

I’ve been travelling around Scotland and visiting Sheds to learn more about what you do and have met some amazing people on the way. It has been massively important to me to spend time finding out what makes Sheds different to other community organisations, so that I can represent you in the best way possible. I’ve seen Sheds in urban areas and rural areas, Sheds at different stages of development, Sheds with and without their own premises, Sheds facing difficulties, and Sheds that are thriving.

Although every Shed is different, there is one thing they all have in common; the infectious laughter and banter!

We are hoping to confirm the selection of the Sheds that will be included in the project over the coming weeks. The aim is to represent the diversity of Sheds that exist in Scotland and a range of sustainability and development challenges that Sheds face so that we can really make the most of the 3 year project running time. As we have had a lot of Sheds offering to take part in the study, we are taking the time and care to ensure that the Sheds that are chosen are really right for this project. We hope to keep you up to date with the selection process in the next SMSA Newsletter, so keep your eyes peeled.

Dani

CALL FOR SKILLED WOODTURNERS

We have had a request from a small specialised Edinburgh business wondering if there are any of you who can or want to turn chess pieces which include their small electronic chip which will record the moves. It could be a nice side line and money earner for you and/or your Shed.

If you are interested please get in touch with jason@scottishmsa.org.uk.

Empty buildings like this could house Men’s Sheds – is this happening or not?

Share your Shed story

Contact: comms@scottishmsa.org.uk or call Rhona on 07389061498
HEALTH MATTERS

BOOK A FREE BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS TALK FOR YOUR SHED WITH BOWEL CANCER UK

April is Bowel Cancer awareness month.

Bowel cancer is currently the third most common cancer in Scotland and the second biggest cancer killer. Over 3,700 people in Scotland are diagnosed with bowel cancer each year, and approximately 1,600 people die from the disease.

However, it doesn't have to be this way, as bowel cancer is treatable and curable, especially when caught early. If diagnosed at the earliest stage, over 98% of people will survive bowel cancer. That’s why we’re dedicated to raising awareness through our bowel cancer awareness talks.

Free awareness materials will also be available, and our volunteers are happy to answer any questions you might have.

If you would like to enquire about booking a talk, please email: ross.lamb@bowelcanceruk.org.uk or call 0131 281 7353.

What’s covered in the 30 - minute talk?

- Signs and symptoms – learn the key facts about bowel cancer
- Healthy lifestyle and prevention - tips on how to reduce the risk of bowel cancer
- NHS Bowel Screening – learn about the NHS bowel screening programme and the importance of taking the test

WHAT’S COOKING?

Given that it’s Bowel Cancer awareness month, we thought we would go with something that well, eases the load!

PORRIDGE! Everyone has their opinion on whether it’s better with salt or sugar, but why not ditch both and opt for the healthy options below:

Grated apple, blackberry and pecan - Grate up a little apple and stir into the porridge. Once it’s cooked, top with some blackberries and chopped pecan nuts for extra crunch.

Chocolate banana - Mash up most of a ripe banana – the riper the better as it will add natural sweetness – then cook in with the oats and about 2 tsp cocoa powder (or to taste). Stir well and serve with the remaining banana sliced on top.

Feeling adventurous? Try the delicious overnight oats recipe below. It’s simple and quick to do and you will be rewarded with a creamy mixture of softened oats and fruit, that’s somewhere between a fruit yogurt and porridge.

Overnight Porridge

Taken from the BBC Good Food website

- 100g porridge oats
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 250ml apple juice
- 2 apples, grated
- 100g blueberries

Mix the porridge oats with the cinnamon in a large bowl. Stir in the apple juice and grated apples, then gently fold in the blueberries. Allow to stand for 5 mins before serving, or leave overnight and enjoy for breakfast the next day.

It can sometimes be challenging to go to a Men’s Shed if you haven’t been before. Regular Shedder - take someone with you. New Shedder - ask your neighbour etc to go with you!
SET UP AN ELECTRONICS GROUP IN YOUR SHED

Frank, John and David from the Hamilton and District Men’s Shed, invite Scottish Shedder’s to join them to build a free electronic kit at the Scottish Electronics and Radio Convention at the Braehead Arena, Glasgow G51 4BN, on May 20th, 2018.

They have had a lot of fun and learned much building low cost projects and they will be pleased to help you achieve that too. Back at your Shed, you can tackle new projects and share your new found skills with others. Supplies of components and local help may be available after the event.

Please pre-register your interest now to receive more information. Places are limited.

If you are unable to attend, all Shedder’s can enter a free prize draw for kits and components. Visit: www.menshedelectronics.com

This event is made possible by the Radio Society of Great Britain and Antex Electronics Ltd.

About the group...

We are Shedders, radio amateurs and electronics enthusiasts that have been helped by others over the years through the sharing of skills, components, books etc. Most of it free. This is our way of thanking them and hopefully encouraging Shedders to explore electronics.

An electronic station requires much less capital to set up, can be continued at home on the kitchen table and components are low cost and easy to store.

The risks of soldering are lower and you can’t chop your finger off when building something at the hobbyist level!!

Also as we age, you can still sit and work, unlike needing good muscles to wield a heavy lump of wood passed through the bandsaw!!!

Behind us sit some sponsors and supporters keen to provide tools and components at no cost.

GET CONNECTED THROUGH OUR SHED SWAP SHOP!

Our members have expressed an interest in exchanging many things with other Sheds from spare tools and equipment to ideas and advice. We are now facilitating this through our SMSA Member Sheds Facebook Forum.

This Clarke CL500M Metal Lathe with Mill/Drill and Clarke CBS 45 MD 370W Bandsaw, which was donated through Remap (see next edition) and Strathclyde University, found a new home at the East Kilbride Men’s Shed through our Facebook page.

Our Shed members always get the heads up first when donations come to us. As part of your Shed Membership of the SMSA, each Shed can also appoint two moderators who can post directly onto our Shed Forum Facebook page. LIKE the page and get the news for YOUR Shed!

In order to become a moderator, you need to have your own personal Facebook account. If you don’t have one, it’s very easy to set up. Follow this link to the Facebook help page which will get you started. If you have any kids or grandchildren, call on them for a little training to help you get the most out of it as they all seem to be natural experts!

While you are there set up a page for your Shed as well 😊

Once you have your own Facebook page and if your Shed is or has become a SMSA Shed Member, send an email to: jason@scottishmsa.org.uk to make you your Shed Forum moderator.

www.facebook.com/SMSAMemberShedsForum

It’s out there for you guys to use, so get on board, get connected and get first dibs on our donations!

Do you know of some training that other Sheds might benefit from?

Contact: comms@scottishmsa.org.uk or call Rhona on 07389061498
South Lanarkshire's New Mobile Men's Shed Takes to the Road

Seniors Together's new Big Lottery funded Mobile Shed Project took to the Lanarkshire roads in February to spread the word of the Men's Shed movement in the region. The bus will visit supermarkets, Sport and Community Centre's and will encourage visitors to get on board and find out what a Men's Shed is all about. **Info**: Telephone - **01698 454104**
Email: [seniorstogther@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:seniorstogther@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

SMSA wish the project every success

Deadlines for our Next Edition

If you would like to contribute an article, picture or event for the next edition please contact Rhona at [comms@scottishmsa.org.uk](mailto:comms@scottishmsa.org.uk) or call 07389061498.
Next Issue date: **3rd May 2018**
Deadline for submission: **19th April 2018**

This is another fine poem from our Poetry Competition for you to enjoy

They say the best things in life are free
Well joining the Men's Shed did it for me
No longer in my wife's way and under her feet
I say goodbye with a kiss and hastily retreat
to the Shed for a project amid friendship and banter
as we all settle down to work with clatter and laughter
Hammer, nails, saws and planes are our tools of trade
and folks gasp at all the fine products we have made.

**Jessie Wymess, Westhill Men's Shed**

Share your news with the Shedding community
Contact: [comms@scottishmsa.org.uk](mailto:comms@scottishmsa.org.uk) or call Rhona on 07389061498
The Scottish Shedder is the official free newsletter of the Scottish Men’s Sheds Association. It inspires and informs Scottish Shedders and the grass root supporters of the achievements, changes and ongoing requirements to successful Shed creation across Scotland.

We aim to publish eight editions of the newsletter each year in both digital and printed formats. The digital version is sent to all our online individual members and a printed version to every SMSA Member Shed. All editions will also be archived in the SMSA online library for individual members to access at any time.

The SMSA cannot accept any responsibility for any claims made by external parties. The content of the newsletter does not necessarily represent the views of the publisher or imply any endorsement.

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Subscribe to this newsletter

In order to subscribe you must have an email address and become an Individual Member of the SMSA which is free to join. You can do this by completing an application:

• online at www.scottishmsa.org.uk/join
• at your local Scottish Men’s Shed (See our website for a full listing of Scottish Men’s Sheds-Find a Shed)
• or by contacting the SMSA to request a postal application.

By joining the grass roots movement you are possibly helping thousands of people have the opportunity of better quality lives. Glad to have you on board with us.