

Frome Men's Shed – Activity Report 14th August 2014 to 13th August 2015



This summary of activities primarily covers the activities of the Frome Men's Shed during its first year of opening the workshop. For completeness, there are details of the launch meetings held prior to opening. The Frome Men's Shed is currently an unincorporated community Group, shortly to register with the Charities Commission. The organisation is open to all people in the area over 18.

Pre-launch meetings:-

- 12th May 2014 – **Launch meeting** at the Cheese & Grain
- 9th June 2014 – **Second launch meeting** at the Cheese & Grain
- 21st July 2014 - **Third launch meeting** at the Cheese & Grain
- 14th August 2014 – **First Workshop** at the Welshmill Hub



We've had **50 Workshop sessions** every Thursday morning at the Welshmill Hub during the year. (Except 25th December 2014 and 1st January 2015)



Average attendees (Members) is 12, with 2-3 guests per session. There are 35 subscribed members (33 men, and two women)

Contact list – We have 80 potential members, 300 other contacts, Including organisations, councils, and other supporters on our contact list.



Support to other Men's Sheds – We have provided support to several other Sheds in the area - Somerset levels & Moors Men's Shed (SLAMMS), Melksham, Westbury, Coleford and Corsham.

Participated in outside events:

- Frome Independent Market (May 2014)
- Dadfest (15th June 2014)
- Castle Care Wessex Fete – Trudoxhill (19th September 2014)
- World Mental Health Day (10th October 2014)
- Colebrook Community Hub Launch (6th February 2015)
- Frome Town Hall meeting (Colin Pearce) 16th January 2015
- Money Matters, Time Matters(31st March 2015)
- Volunteer Week event at the Silk Mill (6th June 2015)



Other events:-

- Mince Pies & Drinks for members and supporters (18th December 2014)
- Visit from John Evoy and David Helmers (CEOs of the Australian & Ireland Men's Sheds Association) (9th October 2014)
- Interim General Meeting (5th March 2015)
- Lunch with the Melksham Shed (30th April 2015)



Knife sharpening – 20th November 2014 – Over 100 blades sharpened, £120 raised for the Mayors Charities



Repairs for people in the Community:- These include repairs to a card table, to a dozen or so chairs, a rocking chair, a Wi-Fi connection, installed anti-virus software, repaired a document shredder, installed a doorbell, assembled flat pack shelves, repairs to an easel, mirror frame, angel wings, mirror chain and garden benches. We have repaired floorboards in the Welshmill Hub, installed a window sill, and erected noticeboards and picture rails also in the Welshmill Hub. We've made and repaired various wooden objects. Other items repaired and/or PAT tested). We have resealed a caned Bedroom chair, and re-rushed and child's seat.



Community projects:- Owl boxes for the Dorset Hawk & Owl Trust, , loom clamps for the Frome Textile Workshop, and two planters for Incredible Edible (At Frome Station) A new Bardic Chair for Open Story Tellers. Shelving in the SHARE shop, Repainting the Office at Positive Action on Cancer (21st August 2015)



Individual Projects: Various members have worked on our workbench, and projects for themselves including a dog kennel, rabbit hutch, inkle loom, bread box lid, Key box, Toolbox, and other minor items.

Tools – We have received seven sets of tool donations, plus a scroll saw, pillar drill, and dust extractor. (Some items passed to SHARE for Community use)



Donations – Average £20 per week (Including two sizable donations)

Accounts - See a separate report on accounts. We have a bank account with the NatWest Bank in Frome. We are 99% self-sufficient in terms of funding. (Income based on Membership & Session fees plus Donations, vs Expense on Rent, Insurance and website costs)

Insurance – The Frome Men's Shed has a £5m Public Liability Insurance policy (Including coverage on Products and pollution) from Zurich (Via Tennyson Insurance)



Website visits Over 4000 page views (August 2014 to August 2015)Averages 10 pages per day. 35 people have expressed an interest in the Shed via the website.

Press coverage: Since our initial launch we have had 5 articles in the Frome Standard, 8 articles in the Frome Times, 1 article in the Somerset Guardian, and have featured in four shows on Frome FM.

Training: We have had one Shedder trained on First Aid, and five members trained on Health & Safety Training (Thanks to Mindset Training)



Membership of other Organisations: The Frome Men's Shed is a member of the UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA), and Mendip Community Support. We also have a preferred supplier agreement with Triton Tools, which gives us a 49% discount from hand tools and consumables and 25% discount on power tools. This was thanks to a "Two pot plant holder" project submitted by one of the Frome Men's Shedders.

Patrick Abrahams
17th September 2015

Thanks to all the supporters of the Frome Men's Shed !

