

A Shed load of fun! Frome Shed thriving 18 months on

THE Frome Shed is established as a Community Organisation, which is a not for profit organisation.

Patrick Abrahams, organiser of Frome Shed gives an insight and update of the club's activities, since it started in 2014. He said, "Strikes me as an excellent idea, but not new: I don't think I've met many men who aren't excited by the idea of a shed! Men's Sheds originated in Australia with the first one

opening here in the UK in 2009. The Frome Shed opened in August 2014.

"The Frome Shed is open to anyone - although it is primarily older men who are the target. The point of the Frome shed is to provide a welcoming, inclusive environment for anyone wanting to learn new skills, or sharing existing ones, on projects of their own or for the Community.

"The shedders decide what they want to do, and how they will go about it.

"The Frome Shed now has nearly 50 members, with 15 to 20 people coming every week to the workshop in the Welshmill hub, on Thursday mornings 9.00am to 1.00pm. We are in the process of expanding our space, thanks to the Health & Well Being Grant from Somerset County Council with the support of our local councillor, Linda Oliver.

"The Frome Shed has undertaken many projects in the community - repainting the offices at Posi-

tive Action on Cancer (PAC), making a Bardic Chair for Open Story Tellers, making planters for the Incredible Edible group, loom clamps for the Frome Textile group, as well as numerous repairs for residents in Frome.

"Some notable repairs were the refurbishment of an antique water pump, a large mirror frame, and the restoration of a pair of wooden angel wings.

"The Frome Shed attends all kind of external events in the community, including



the Frome Medical Centre Health event, Somerset Men's mental Health conference, Green Planet Sunday and others.

"Shedders also build their own projects, including dog kennels, planters, and many other items.

"It's terrific that some Frome Shedders are off launching their own Men's Sheds in Westbury & Trowbridge, and the Frome Shed has supported other Men's Sheds in the area, including Burrowbridge, Corsham, Nailsea, Bruton and Wedmore.

"Two of our Shedders have learnt how to re-cane and re-rush chairs. We are hoping to run training courses on this in Frome later in the year.

"We have had many generous donations of tools to

the group, as well as wood - We are looking for some kind of storage locally - Please contact us if you can help.

"Seeing so many people working together, sharing skills (and learning new skills) to produce some amazing results is great. The people we do the work for are very appreciative - and it's brilliant to see the look on their faces when they see their beloved chair repaired, or a music box working again after so many years - it makes it really rewarding for the Shedders."

More details at: www.fromeshed.org.uk

Above: Leon and Gerry refurbishing the pump. Left, Rob and Peter repairing a mirror and far left, Jonathan and Len repairing a chair.

