

# Hayling Island Men's Shed Association

## HIMSA NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2016



#### HIMSA's first AGM

We held our Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February. We were pleased to be joined by local Hampshire County Councillor Frank Pearce, and the Minister of South Hayling United Reformed Church Rev Heather Cadoux, as well as around 30 members.

A board of Trustees consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster and Project Manager was formally elected. The Project Manager's role will be to implement and co-ordinate the various stages of work for the development of the Men's Shed on a suitable site once agreement with the landowner has been approved. Major funding for the purchase of a suitable building continues to be a high priority for the Trustees and its members.

#### THE STORY SO FAR...

Having started the notion of a Men's Shed with 21 men turning up to a public meeting in November 2015, we now have over 50 members on our books.

We met every week in the United Reformed Church small hall until the end of February, then we moved to the Royal British Legion.

At our AGM the constitution was ratified. Our bank account is now open for deposits - the account name is Hayling Island Men's Shed Association.

We are actively pursuing various possibilities for a shed location which will give us some security of tenure.

#### Mens Shed in the Community

A HIMS gardening team led by John Moore has been doing stalwart work at the Stead-Ritchie Memorial Garden on Selsmore Road, helping with other community volunteers to tidy up this potential beauty spot which had become totally overgrown.



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## What is a Men's Shed?

A Men's Shed is a larger version of the typical man's shed in the garden - a place where he feels at home and pursues practical interests with a high degree of autonomy. A Men's Shed offers this to a group of such men where members share the tools and resources they need to work on projects of their own choosing at their own pace and in a safe, friendly and inclusive venue. They are places of skill-sharing and informal learning, of individual pursuits and community projects, of purpose, achievement and social interaction. A place of leisure where men come together to work.

A Shed's activities usually involve making or mending in wood (e.g. carpentry, joinery, turning, carving, whittling, marquetry, furniture renovation) but may include metalworking (milling, sheet metal, welding, etc.) bike repair, gardening, electronics, tool renovation, boat renovation, model engineering (model railways, planes) and even building a car! Reclamation, reuse and restoration will feature strongly - and some say that is true of the men too! Although Sheds mostly attract older men, some have included men of any age, women and young people.

Whichever activities are pursued the essence of a Shed is not a building, which some don't have, but the network of relationships between the members.



*From the UK Men's Sheds Association website  
[menssheds.org.uk](http://menssheds.org.uk)*

### Fundraising

We are extremely grateful for start-up grants totalling £2700 received from the following:

- South Hayling United Reformed Church
- Hampshire County Council (Frank Pearce Councillor's Funds)
- Havant Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council (Rural Development Programme)

We also have already received over £400 in membership subscriptions!

But we've got a long way to go to raise enough for a new building, including the preparatory works, the fitting out and buying equipment, as well as covering ongoing expenses such as insurance.

### HIMSA TRUSTEES

Chairman: Gerry Johnson

Secretary: Tony George

Treasurer: Roy Cadoux

Project Manager: Ron Harman

Website: David Sidebotham

Publicity: Tom Deans

Fundraising Adviser: Melanie FitzGerald

**Our website: [himsa.co.uk](http://himsa.co.uk)**

**Contact us: [info@himsa.co.uk](mailto:info@himsa.co.uk)**

## Weekly meetings resume after Easter on 7<sup>th</sup> April

Since the beginning of March we have been meeting at the Royal British Legion, Legion Road, Hayling Island PO11 9ES every Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm. We are very grateful to the Legion Branch and Club for the welcome we have received and the facilities they are providing for us.

Drinks are available from the bar, or we provide tea/coffee at the start of the meeting. If you're feeling peckish, come early as light meals and snacks are available from the Food Bar up till 2pm. Freshly made sandwiches and salads, homemade pasta, all day breakfast and a selection of desserts are just some of the tempting items on offer. More details at [rbl-hayling.org.uk](http://rbl-hayling.org.uk)

Everyone is welcome to come and find out what we are up to - but hopefully before too long we will be getting out of the meeting room and doing some actual work in preparation of our shed building.

We are very grateful to South Hayling United Reformed Church for allowing us to meet there each week for the previous four months.

## Southern Men's Shed Network: [smsn.org.uk](http://smsn.org.uk)

We are very pleased to be a part of this new network linking nearly 20 sheds in the southern region. It provides us with much needed support and advice, especially whilst we go through the initial stages of setting up a new shed, and we are very grateful for the help we have already received particularly from John Worley (Havant) and Andy Pottinger (Portsmouth).



Tony and Gerry represented Hayling Island at the inaugural SMSN meeting in January at Portsmouth.

## What we need now...

- **Money!** We probably will need around £13,000 to purchase a suitable building. In addition we will have to pay for site clearance, laying a base, providing power, water etc. and fitting out the building. Donations and ideas for sources of grants are always welcome.
- **Temporary storage.** We have already been offered some tools and equipment, but we've got nowhere to put them! Do you know of an empty secure garage or other suitable building anywhere on the island that we could use until we get our shed?
- **Involvement by members.** Is there some specific way in which you could help? Fund raising, publicity, website, building expertise, teaboy, raffle organiser, or anything else you can think of that will take us one step closer to getting our shed.



Our first three committee members (who were all elected to be Trustees at the AGM).

l-r Tony George, Gerry Johnson and Roy Cadoux.

## Mens Shed in the Community - work at the Stead Ritchie Memorial Garden



The end-product of one 2-hour session by six of the team