

6 THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

Radio to help 'shedders' to stay in touch

The Frome Men's Shed charity, which offers companionship and a community workshop to those who might otherwise be isolated, are taking to the airwaves in light of the coronavirus crisis.

With the country on lockdown, "shedders" cannot meet to repair small items of furniture for Frome residents as they normally would.

Because a considerable number of members are over 70 or have potentially serious health conditions, a decision was made to close the shed, initially until April 16.

To support the UK Men's Sheds Association, Frome FM and the Frome Shed have now launched a weekly two-hour radio show to help shedders, and others, in self-isolation. The show will cover subjects such as fake news and how to avoid online scams and more.

Last week, it featured sheds from islands around the UK.

Presenter Patrick Abrahams said: "Island-based sheds are probably better at dealing with isolation than the rest of us. We heard from sheds from Guernsey, the Isle of Wight and Shetland."

The show also had some music features, including a shed "rap" from Dunoon, and music from Shedditi in Cambridge.

Frome FM broadcasts on 96.6FM and the next weekly Men's Shed UK show is at 10am on Wednesday, April 8. Mr Abrahams said: "The issue is that people are dealing with isolation. Next week [April 1] we have a guide to video conferencing. We use WhatsApp and the video communications app Zoom, but we also telephone and do round robins."