

Welcome to the April 2025 edition of the Newsletter.

I was going to knock out one of these every two months... but so much has been going on, I think you deserve an interim Newsletter.

I have included a piece on fire training this edition, whilst we are now positive that Health and Safety regulations do not apply to Voluntary organisations (with no employees!), we do still have a Duty of Care, under civil regulations to make sure you are all kept safe, and trained whilst in the workshop. So read on.

Membership

You will recall that we lost Pete Simmonds on 3rd March. Tractor Pete as he was affectionately known had been an HMS Member since August 2018. He was obsessed with vintage tractors, owning one himself and being a Member of a local Vintage Tractor club, he took his tractor to various local Tractor Rallies. When he came to the Shed, he was always very



grateful to fellow Shed Members when they helped him to complete a project that he had brought in from home, as he wasn't that familiar with

our machinery!



A well turn out bunch of Shedders at Pete's funeral.

Social

The Social activities for the period are listed below. Terry does a grand job organising the routine events and is the point of contact for any queries.

A good evening was had at the Curry Inn: highlight of the evening being Mick Darling's unorthodox route to the lavatory



Curry night 17 March

Members Meeting 17 March

There was a good turnout at SheepSetting Lane where Bob Curtis updated us all on our progress and plans.

New Members were introduced to the Committee members and Supervisors.

Thanks to Terry H for providing the Tea and biscuits.



Most of us managed to stay awake, although the gentleman in the bottom left appears to have flagged...

Bus Pass Outing to Eastbourne

An outing to Eastbourne on the bus was suggested by Guy and was a great success in the sun,



Apparently some of the chaps managed to pull a few of the local girls.

Workshop

Projects

Bob Hayes has completed Ellie's Chicken huts at last (I think) that was quite a project. Let's hope the Chickens enjoy their new accommodation.



There are plenty of projects available on the Workshop Whiteboard now: If you are lost for a task have a look at what's on offer, go see a supervisor and take it on.

Health And Safety

We want you all to be safe when working in the Workshop. It can present a challenging environment for old duffers: there are tripping hazards everywhere, noisy machines, sharp spinning devices and dust and debris flying all over the place. SO please feel obliged to wear suitable PPE: gloves if you are using paints and chemicals, face masks if the air is full of dust, and goggles if debris and wood chips are flying about. You are all grown-ups and must take some responsibility for your own safety. So before launching into your bench project, make sure you have the space you need, clear away unnecessary tools and debris and consider wearing PPE. The Dust extractor system should be switched on. It's not that efficient due to the number of inert devices attached, but it's better than nothing.

COSHH

Whilst the COSHH regulations do not apply to volunteers, we want you all to remain safe when using the various chemicals and paints that are available in the COSHH cupboard.

So wear gloves if necessary, read and follow the instructions on the tins and bottles, and don't drink the stuff, or pour it down the sink outside, or into the Portaloo. Clean up after use, dispose of contaminated materials and wash your hands.

For obvious reasons, the branding Iron is never to be used within the workshop environment. If it's raining, then you will have to delay the job, or get wet. The gas is a COSHH item and must be locked up and returned to the COSHH cupboard outside after use.

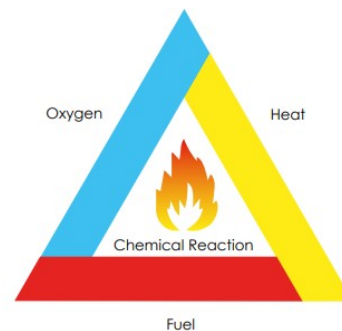
Risk assessments will be carried out and documented on the COSHH items we hold.

These will be held in the office and everyone should be aware of their content.

Workshop Safety

There are Fire Extinguishers in the Workshop and in the Office. We should all know how to use them and what to do in the event of a fire.

A fire needs three elements to exist, remove one of these elements and the fire will go out.



The Workshop and the materials within it are primarily wood, but there are a number of electrical

machines that could cause a fire.

If a fire starts you must..



Raise the Alarm: we don't have a fire alarm, and the shed is fairly small, but crowded.

I suggest you shout **"Fire, Fire Fire"**. Please do not be shy!

Evacuate: get everyone out of the buildings: there is only one door available in both sheds.

Fight the Fire but only If safe to do so.

Use the correct type of extinguisher

There are three types of extinguishers available. In the Workshop there is one CO2 and one Foam AFFF extinguisher.

The CO2 has a Black Label, the Foam a cream label.



There is also a fire blanket, which will be of minimal use in the workshop.

In the office there is one CO2 extinguisher and one water extinguisher with a Red Label

The Water extinguisher should only be used on solid materials such as wood and paper. Aim the water jet at the



base of the fire; You are removing HEAT. Avoid using water on a live electrical fire.

If an electrical machine is on fire, use the CO2 extinguisher. This will remove the OXYGEN from a fire. Do not hold the horn: the expanding gas will cause ice to form on the horn and your fingers can stick to it.

The AFFF Foam extinguisher is a good general extinguisher and can be used on liquid fuel fires. It suffocates a fire and provides some cooling, but needs to be laid down as a blanket. Work the spray pattern from side to side laying down a carpet of foam.

If it is safe to do so someone might throw the Mains electrical isolation circuit breakers.

Call 999.

Alert Little Tinkers.

We are on their land, and the place is crawling with infants: we must be conscious of their safety.

Remember everyone's safety is a priority. No heroics please.



Any chickens caught in a fire are best served afterwards with chips, mayonnaise and a light salad.

We will have some fire drills in the near future.

New equipment

We now have two bobbin sanders, A Record BBS1 Benchtop Bobbin Sander and the old one which Peter Scrivens repaired by replacing the two drive belts. It appears to be behaving.

Remember to periodically check the bench saw for sawdust clogging: we ought to use the vacuum on the thing when its outside, The switch on the vacuum was permanently on, which made its use impractical, however our Main Mender, Peter Scrivens again has now fixed the switch so I suggest it's used with the table saw whenever possible.



The chickens appreciating the sawdust!

Incidentally we now have a second mobile vacuum that should be put to use.

We also have an extremely nice new work bench, with drawers and a pair of vices. Look after it and keep the work surface clear.

Sales

We had a quiet day at the last Priory market: hope for better sales next week, although Mike Negus will be missing again, and I'm sure his absence will be noticed.

Policies

There is a plan to open the workshop on a Wednesday Morning from 10.00 to 13.00 starting in the near future.

The HMS Policies and Procedures have been updated recently. These are available to familiarise yourself with in the Office Shed cupboard. Read the Health & Safety policy!

Of note is the Lone Working Policy. No one should operate any equipment in the Workshop if alone during normal Workshop hours. For obvious H&S reasons.

If any member has a registered DNR order could they please let Nic know.

Training

HMS has a policy that requires everyone to be trained on the machinery. Common sense should prevail here: You should be familiar with way a device works, know how to turn it on and off, be aware of any dangers associated with it, such as spinning blades and sharp edges and be comfortable using it. We do not expect you to be able to dismantle the thing to change the bilateral sprockets or rotating scissors. If you need to do something non-standard, go seek out a Supervisor please.

if you are not familiar with the following equipment, the Supervisor named should be able to provide the necessary training.

Wood Lathe	Mike Negus	Roger Dann
Morticer	Peter Collyer	

Generator Nic Stenhouse

Biscuit Joiner Terry Haddington

Hand Routers Peter Collyer

Pro-edge Sharpening System Peter Collyer

Sea King autopilot Mike McDougall

Please let Mike McDougall know if you have been checked out on a new piece of equipment. All the training records will be revisited the 2nd Quarter of this year to make sure we are all signed off.

He will update your training records accordingly.

Diary of Events

Shed Sessions - every Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00am – 3.30pm to include a break for lunch 12.30- 1.30pm – members bring their own lunch. NB: We might close early (around 2pm) if workload is complete. See news for future Wednesday Session plans.

To reserve your place at any HMS outing - please put your name in the Office Shed Diary and WhatsApp Terry.

April 2025

**Mon 7th HMS Coffee Morning 10.00 - 12.00
Coop Café**

Tues 8th Shed Day

Wed 9th Shed Day

Thurs 10th Shed Day

**Mon 14th Breakfast at the Butchers Hook
09.00**

Tues 15th Shed Day

Wed 16th Shed Day

Thurs 17th Shed Day

Mon 21st Pub Night at the Runt in Tun 19:00.

Tues 22nd Shed Day

Wed 23rd Shed Day

Thurs 24th Shed Day

Tues 29th Shed Day

Wed 30th Shed Day

Wed 30th Quiz night, Heathfield Tavern 19:00

May 2025

Thurs 1st May Shed Day

**Mon 5th HMS Coffee Morning 10.00 - 12.00
Coop Café**

Tues 6th Shed Day

Wed 7th Shed day

Thurs 8th Shed Day

**Mon 12th Breakfast at the Butchers Hook
09.00**

Tues 13th Shed Day

Wed 14th Shed day

Thurs 15th Shed Day

Mon 19th Pub Night at the Runt in Tun 19:00

Tues 20th Shed Day

Wed 21st Shed day

**Wed 21st Curry Night, Heathfield Curry Inn
19:00.**

Thurs 22nd Shed Day

Tues 27th Shed Day

Wed 28th Shed Day

Wed 28th Quiz night, Heathfield Tavern 19:00

Edited by Mike McD: all tales, photographs and stories welcome. Next edition May perhaps. Who knows!

