



HEATHFIELD MEN'S SHED

Newsletter



Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the Newsletter

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.

Wednesday Shed days are off for the time being.

First Monday of the Month;
Coop coffee Morning 10.00 - 12.00

Second Monday of the Month;
Breakfast at the Butchers Hook 09:00

Third Monday of the Month;
Committee Meeting
Pub Night at the Runt in Tun 19:00

Fourth Monday morning of the Month;
Eastbourne Bus Pass Beano; Look out for Guy's messages about the arrangements if it's on.

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.

During the Winter months however, shedders should anticipate the afternoon sessions being curtailed after lunch, possible as early as 1330, especially if there are insufficient supervisors

who want to stick round. If you want to work in the afternoon, contact us all on Whatsapp and bribe a couple of Supervisors to remain in attendance.

Social news

At the end of April 2026, the HMS Committee will be looking to appoint to the Committee a new Membership Secretary, as Nic will be stepping down from the role that he took on in 2019 when the Heathfield Men's Shed started up.

The role doesn't involve a great deal of know-how or particular skills. It's about keeping the Membership list up to date and arranging visits to the Shed or to our Social events, to let possible want-to-be new Members see what we do, how we do it and where we do it.

Dealing with Membership enquiries and doing the Membership renewals are the only significant part of the role – the rest is chatter! The role would suit someone who likes to meet people and has the interests of our local older men at heart! Taking on the role doesn't mean that you must be a Workshop Member, and the role would easily suit an HMS Social Member. You don't need to know how to bang nails into a piece of wood or how to make sawdust! In modern speak, it probably means that you will be a people person and like a good natter!

Our Membership year starts from the 1st May and Nic has said that he will complete the Membership renewal process for 2026 before stepping down. Having a computer and the ability to send emails and use Excel spreadsheets would be required, but it's not complicated. Nic is happy to talk through the

computer side and to anyone interested and will show them how the spreadsheet works. It's about keeping accurate records in a sensible way - it's not rocket science!

Please contact any of the Committee Members if you're interested or curious!

Policy and Procedures Manual

Everyone should have received an electronic copy of the Policy and Procedures Manual. I don't suggest you print it out, but by all means have a read and if you find anything amiss please let me know.

Short term amendments and any policy changes will be notified by a SHEDTEM, the content of which, if it remains relevant will be incorporated into the Manual at the next revision.

Current SHEDTEMS are:

3/2026 Equipment and Tools

Pending:

4/2026 Code Of Conduct for Members

5/2026 Fire regulations

SHEDTEM 4/2026 will address the use of the Whatsapp Group. In future we propose that the Group Administrators will moderate (remove) posts when necessary.

Whilst Members may delete their own posts, as a general rule they should not delete those of others. Should a post cause offence to a member, they should contact the Group Admins in private who will take the appropriate action.

Sales

We had a pretty successful first sale of the year at the Coop Market. Takings were around the £200 mark, plus a commission.



Much of that was due to Peter Skriven's bench which is now being put to good use in a lavatory (don't ask).



Mr Skriven's looking very pleased with his seat.

I'm sure most of you are aware that we attend a number of sales events throughout the year, such as the Coop market, the Waldron Priory and Heathfield markets where we try to sell the items made in the workshop.

These events take some managing. All the goods have to be transported to the event from or Workshop: which involves half a dozen trips to the car with boxes of goods. At the venue, the stall must be set up, the goods displayed and attended by two or three Shedders. Afterwards the process is reversed and all the unsold stock returned to the Workshop for the next event.

These sales events need not be limited to Workshop Members. **We would be delighted**

to see Social members lending a hand, perhaps manning the stall for a few hours and assisting with the transport of goods to and from the cars.

If any of you would like to get more involved do please contact one of the Committee.

Commissions



We received a good commission from the Horam Crematorium late last year which was completed in early February well ahead of time.



We manufactured 8 raised bed boxes with uprights to which anti deer netting will be attached. Much of the pre assembly work was carried out at the Workshop, and thanks to

Carlos and Mike Negus for providing the transport to take everything to the Crematorium, where it was assembled by the team below.

In the boxes themselves will be planted apple, plum and pear trees; the soil at the Crematorium being so poor, it was felt the trees needed some assistance to get going.



Health and Safety

Fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers were serviced in February.

Although the Fire Brigade suggest that everyone should evacuate a burning building rather than fight any fire, Mark, the gentleman who serviced, (and condemned three of) our extinguishers) had a different opinion, which I agree with. Provided it is safe to do so a small fire is something we should attempt to tackle, especially if it was just a blaze in a waste paper bin. You might save two sheds and a load of equipment from being destroyed.

Anyway apparently Mark is willing to give us all a light training event at some point in the future, which I think would benefit all of us to attend.

