

Laurence at the Shed taking delivery of the Shield on behalf of the British Fencing Association Honours Committee. The shield will be presented as the Director's award at the BFA AGM in London on the 29th September.

Somerset Levels and Moors Shed

October 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to old and new members. If you have any news you would like to share, then my contact details are right on the back page of this newsletter. Keep it clean and legal and I will print it.
The new volunteer to help out with the Newsletter and Facebook is Stephen Oxbrow. He will also be recording & counting the tools coming into the Shed. So if you donate or receive donated tools please let Steve know.

Next Maintenance Day will be Wednesday 31st October. Would you be interested in helping out on Maintenance days? **BE WARNED this could involve hard manual labour.**
We also need to design and make tool holders for the French cleat system. If you would like to help do this then please see Gerry at the Shed.

Wood Turning: Want to try your hand? Mike D and Clive are the men to see. The lathe room has limited space, so beware you may have to wait. Have you got knowledge on wood turning? If so please see Mike D.

Do you have any ideas on where we would be welcome to set up a display table at a future local event? With Christmas coming there must be something indoors and free if possible.

The trip to Minehead on the WSR steam train was fun though uneventful. However we enjoyed great fish and chips, coffees and a laugh. Have you got an idea for a day trip or activity? Maybe we can have another day out?

Are you new to the shed?
Not sure where you'd fit in? Well we have a list of things you can do. Starting with sitting, chatting or drinking coffee. Getting introduced to various other shedder's see what they are doing. There are a few rules to ensure your and others' a safe and enjoyable time. Gerry can find you something to do, or help you locate various tools and materials to start your own project.

We all been in that place in the doorway, wondering is this for me. Well, go get yourself a cup of coffee as you've just taken the first step into your HAPPY PLACE. We are all different. We come from different areas and know different things, do different things, but have one thing in common ….

The Shed

Having decided on your project you may need help or advice on wood/tools to use. Well Dave is a master craftsman and is always happy to help and advise. In time you will see the little teams that work together in their own space within the Shed. These teams grew from one guy coming through the door thinking "will I fit

in here?" What now you ask! Just let it happen you will find your place very soon its a natural shed thing. You just get sucked into…….

The Shed

A few weeks from now you will be at the doorway and see a guy hanging on to the door not knowing if he should just walk in or knock. Or run home to his empty house and turn on to Jeremy Kyle?

Extraordinary General Meeting: There will be a meeting at the shed on the 9th October at 10.00am to discuss the changes shed members put towards to the Committee. New members who are not familiar with the proposals, please come talk to Gerry as I have copies, or see last month's newsletter.

Lots going on at the shed this month so come in and be involved.

Next day out: will be (being an idea from Dave) a trip to the wood-working show at Westpoint, Exeter on Friday 26th October. There's a list on the notice board. Although this is a free Event, I still need to make a block booking and arrange car shares. So if you'd like to come along, please add your name ASAP guys.

Teetotal with a car? This is your chance to shine.....
Our Christmas Lunch and drinks in Bridgwater town centre now has a provisional date. **Thursday 20th December.** The list is on the notice board so please add your name if you'd like to come.
The general idea is as follows.....
We will come along for usual shed session in morning and then go into town for Christmas lunch around 1.00pm. Wetherspoon's seems to be the preferred venue at the moment. I would suggest those guys from out of town who want to have a drink after Lunch try to sort a car share with fellow Shedders. (See teetotal note above). **There is at least ONE car and driver available as Stephen isn't drinking.**
Please note that this date is subject to change.
Due to my legs turning to Jelly after several pints of loopy juice, I may well require being poured into a car, and dumped at Taunton Road some time afterwards please.
Mike D has volunteered to run a Christmas club for anyone who wants to save money towards this event. I would suggest Volunteer drivers get free lunch split between those that benefit from the freedom to have a drink.
Your thoughts on this are welcome please.

Just going to slip in the question of the month. Television was first Demonstrated in 1926 What year was the word **Television** first used?

Community Projects: A few weeks ago, the first of 2 ordered planters was collected by Katherine on behalf of the Somerset Bridge Medical Centre Gardening group. Bert and Marcus worked hard at getting this fantastic planter just right. The first planter was made wheelchair friendly on two sides. Bert & Marcus have nearly completed the second planter for Katherine to collect soon. The second finished planter is wheelchair friendly on one side. We wish the Gardening group every success and look forward to seeing the flowers next spring.

There has been a lot of wood bending stretching and pushing at the shed over the last couple of weeks. Some people have been scratching their heads, and asking 'What's that all about?' Well, we've been asked by The Friends of Bridgwater Docks to do a couple of boat shaped planters that will be set up near Bridgwater docks. Bert,with the help of Marcus and a few others, has been measuring, cutting, bending, (cursing me), and slowly getting the wood prepared for this pair of planters. I think they will look amazing when finished.

Brian, Chris and Cherill are making another one of those bird tables that Brian seems to take pleasure in making. Funny how it's always women who order from Brian. Hope he gets it finished before his next holiday. Yeah he is off on holiday again. Hope you have a great time mate.

Tom is one of our newest members, falling into step from the first day he entered the door. Doing his own thing and finding his way round the workshop. Taking on another small commission for The Friends of Bridgwater Docks. Enjoying his time, and looking forward to a future in the shed.

FRONT COVER PICTURE

We were approached by the Wellington Blades Fencing Club and asked to mount a dagger on a nice piece of wood. This is the second commission from them. The first was done by John W and Ron Rudd at the old Shed at Burrowbridge. My thoughts at the time the commission came in were if John W did it and they've come back then we've got to keep the standard high.

After much discussion as a team, Dave took on the main working and shaping the wood, Mike D supplied the oak and red wood for the shield & cross. Mike D turned some bits, Marcus assisted when ever he could. Finishing it off, Dave mounted the shield on a piece of oak tree that has been in his workshop for over 30 years.

The finished product was collected by Lawrence on 20/9/18 (see front cover). He was totally blown away.

The shield will be presented at the British Fencing Association AGM in London on the 29th September. We've been promised pictures of the handover. So Dave and the team, in our little shed in Bridgwater made the British Fencing Association

Honours Committee - Directors Award. Fantastic craftsmanship and a total team effort. Guys, (Dave in particular) you should all be very proud, great team effort. I think we all got pleasure from this project and that, guys is the "shed magic" you hear about. I think we will have to wait a few weeks before we take on a venture like this again. There was a lot of nail biting and constructive debates on this little commission.

We must not forget Stu, the YTS, who took over the shutter work for Dave.

Meanwhile back in the shed this week we continue to do our thing whatever it may be. Have you just come for the first time today, sitting in the snug reading this article? I will tell you now, you have probably done one of the hardest things a man can do in this day and age - You have walked into a shed full of strangers!.

However, next week you will walk into a shed full of friends.

Notes from a Returning Shedder

I've recently returned to the Shed. I first went along in 2016 when it was based at Burrowbridge and only came along for 3-4 sessions before work took me to Dorset and then to South Wales. I am again in between jobs and have moved back to Bridgwater a few weeks ago.

Originally I come from Somerset but have been round the country for work. I've spent a number of years working in the bus industry, in office based roles which require use of computers.

I joined back in 2016 at the end of what had been an exceptionally difficult year for me and 2018 has certainly had its troubles. I've had a long and unequal fight with depression and anxiety, and boredom/isolation does not help how I'm feeling.

So, trying to stay busy, meeting new people, learning some skills with woodwork and having some fun in the process makes a lot of sense to me. Back in 2016 this helped me come back from a very dark place, just by coming along.

So, after coming along for 4 sessions here in Bridgwater I've been asked to write a little piece on my experiences since returning.

I must admit to feeling a little daunted at first. Aside from some of the committee and Geoff who I recollect from before, everyone else is new. But I'd done the hardest part which is to come along to the shed for the first time. I've been struck by just how friendly people are here.

This was something I recall fondly from my previous time at Burrowbridge and it's not something I'm used to having lived and worked in the South East of England.

There are more people coming along to the shed now that it is in a central location. This is interesting in that there are small groups of people working on different things at a certain pace.

I've had the opportunity to get involved with projects quite quickly after returning. On my very first day back I helped to make a small tray from off-cuts of plywood which was used to store screws of various sizes.

On my second visit I got to sand down a small wooden shield back to bare wood and then apply varnish. I seem to recall the third session involving a lot of talking and putting the world to rights, but then that applied to everyone else attending. This is something I've discovered on allotments too....

Being of somewhat large 'stature' this means I'm roped into lots of heavy lifting and moving bulky items around, which suits me just fine.

So, what am I looking to learn from my second stint at the shed? I'd really like to learn how to use wood to make scale model buildings – I have a side interest in model buses and I particularly enjoy finding ones in need of renovation for next to no money and bringing them back to life.

I'd like to acquire some basic carpentry and joinery knowledge during my time with the shed. These things might have probably been taught during my schooldays, but like much of school I never understood the application. My long suffering other half seems to think I should be able to undertake very basic DIY around the house.

Stephen Oxbrow

Stephen is quite good on computers and painting small fiddly things. Really helpful guy & I think an asset to the shed.

The members of SLaMS now have use of a Moto Card . This is a discount card that you can use at any Moto Service Station on the British Motorway network. Present the card when paying and get up to 60% discount. Take your grandchildren to the Bridgwater Services Burger King and pay less than half price. Do your shopping at M&S 25% less. (Handy for short notice flowers.....) Book it out for as long and often as you like but also remember other guys may want to use it.

Please Don't Abuse it or you will lose it.

The MOTO cards will be kept by Treasurer, Secretary and Chair in the Shed Safe. Anyone wishing to use the card will need to book in its use, which will be logged into the MOTO Book by one of the three committee members. The card will need

to be returned to the safe at the earliest opportunity after the booked period has elapsed. The returnee should ensure that they see the book is annotated showing its return.

September Maintenance Day: We've just had one of these on the 28th September. This was the first, intended to be held monthly. I was not there but called in just as the guys were winding down, and getting ready to leave. Most tools were recorded, checked, logged and serviced if necessary. Everything looked great, clean and tidy. The amount of work done in just 3 hours was nothing short of amazing. Well done Guys.

Do you want to be in maintenance team? The next day will be Wed 31st Oct.

On Sunday 9th September, SlAMS members attended a session with Mind in the Angel Place Shopping Centre. Here are a couple of photos of the event.



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I welcome ideas and stories for the newsletter. Come forward, tell us through the newsletter how you, the Shedders, want your Shed to evolve.

The next Newsletter will be 1st of November. Please submit any item or photographs you would like included in it before 25th October. Look forward to your comments, and seeing you all soon.

Shed Supervisors, First Aiders and Committee Members will be required as we grow. Would you be interested in this role? See a Committee Member.

The Shed needs volunteers to help man our stall at Bridgwater Library from 6th October. It's only a few hours over the course of the week. Poster on shed notice board. Or see me (Gerry.).