



Shedquarters
Arnewood, 9 Birch Close, Sonning
Common, Reading RG4 9LE
W: shedquarters.org.uk
E: info@shedquarters.org.uk

Shedquarters Time Line – October 2024

The idea of setting up a Men's Shed came about in the summer of 2019 and was the brainchild of Mrs. Sheila Maughan. Now, as we all know Covid appeared early in 2020 and therefore plans were reluctantly put on hold. With Covid receding things started to progress and in May 2021 a site was secured where some suitable form of workspace could be placed. That land is at the far end of the overflow carpark for Peppard War Memorial Hall on Gallowstree Road, Peppard, RG9 5JA.

Having found somewhere for a building to go, what was now required were the funds to purchase suitable building(s) and to fit them out.

Shedquarters fundraising started in June 2022 but really took off when Clive Mills & Viv Binder came on-board in December 2022. Local companies and the local branches of national businesses have been very generous in their donations.



Once people knew that a Men's Shed project was under way an avalanche of tools and other useful stuff started to arrive. These donations are much appreciated and are still welcome whilst we work through reconditioning and repairing the donated tools. As the funds increased then thoughts were put to what type of buildings was required and could be obtained.

One would think that there would be a plentiful supply of suitable buildings, but Covid had also had an effect on the supply side of that industry. Finally, we were able to take delivery on May 1st, 2024 of two refurbished ex-Building Site Cabins each measuring 9.5 metres in length by 2.75 metres wide that are inter-

connected via a central door way. They were delivered by the supplier and quickly placed straight on to suitable concrete pads that had been constructed by Richard & Tim after the site had been cleared with help from a local group of people at the Green Gym.

There is still much work to do outside such as levelling the site now the cabins are in situ. This included constructing a concrete slab by the entrance with a ramp up to that slab. That is now finished yippee!



Over two tonnes of hard core have been barrowed to build the foundation of the entrance slab and the concrete has been mixed on site, none of your ready-mix concrete here!

This work has taken place in the recent beautiful weather (not!), which has hampered the efforts. But those of us who work inside can see and have benefited from the improvements. More recently, the installation of the perimeter fence is under way, which was also held up by the wet weather!



Shedquarters has 52.25 square metres (or 526 square feet) of space. The first thing we needed to do was to allocate how we use the two spaces. With the main entrance, on the side of the building (showing the **Shedquarters** sign in the photograph), the decision was quickly agreed that it would be the Clean Cabin. The other is referred to as the Dirty Cabin, the one with the windows open in the above picture.

The differentiator between Clean & Dirty Cabins is simply that in the Dirty Cabin sawdust, swarf and shaving from wood & metal turning, soldering, sawing and planing will be allowed. Whereas, in the Clean Cabin it is envisaged more genteel operation will take place such as socialising whilst drinking tea & coffee, eating cake & biscuits, doing light assembly work or even doing a jigsaw puzzle.

The Clean cabin has that most essential space “a toilet with wash hand basin” for which Philip has constructed the framework and then built the walls. Whilst we were lucky to have been gifted most of our sanitary ware the high cost of linking into the Thames Water sewage system has been expensive.

The Dirty Cabin has both woodworking and metal working lathes/drill/mill, a pillar drill, a mitre saw suitable for wood and metal, a Planner/Thicknesser, table saw, a band saw, disk sander, industrial vacuum cleaner, a scroll saw (jig or fret saw depending on your age) together with an enormous amount of electric hand tools along with spanners, wrenches etc. You name a tool and we probably have one but we could still use a small CNC and even a Laser Cutter/Embossing machine (if anyone knows of one available!).



We also have two proper woodworking benches plus Big Phil has built personal workstations for doing assembly & electronic work each with “a work in progress storage” per station in that cabin.

Roger, another of our member, has installed suitable kitchen cupboards and work surfaces whilst Martin has been rewiring and moving electric points plus putting in emergency alarm systems and fire alarms.

People have commented that not much progress seems to be made because sometimes not many folk are in the shed. The fact of the matter is that quite a lot of work is done away from the site. This provides a major benefit to those working in the cabin in that they can work unimpeded.

Around a dozen people have been involved in getting the cabins ready and the time is now not far off when we can open and invite people to use the facility. But to get to that point we have to have insurance in place and that requires us to have all of the regulatory paperwork to meet building regulations.

It is hoped that as the fitting-out reaches its conclusion we can open in either late October or early November but before then

we have to look at what activities we provide, and the Fitting Out Party Leaders have that in hand.



Roger Phebey