



Annual General Meeting 2024

Date: 2024-06-12

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Facilitators: David Shea (Chair) and Byron Jenkins (Sec).

IN ATTENDANCE

Bill Ball
Brian Austin
Craig Livsey
John Bevan
John Brokenbrow
Pete Nichol
Ray Pountney

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcome, by the Chairman.

David has acknowledged 'Mister Gees Foundation' for the support and provision of the premises. The rental of the property was instigated by Douglas Green, and has been supported by his charity since June 2023. David was pleased that we have established a safe environment for members to show, and learn new skills.

David thanked everyone who has helped develop the shed into an excellent social space, where it will provide ongoing training and be a safe place for members regardless of skill level. David says he is stepping down to let new blood forge the way forward and make SWF Men's Shed one to be proud of.

APPOLOGIES

Gary Croker
Phill Loyd (Supervisor)
Bob Adams
Douglas Green (Foundation)
Others on WhatsApp group (non-committee)

APPROVAL OF THE LAST AGM MINUTES

David Shea Chaired the meeting. There were no previous minutes as this is the first AGM for SWF Shed.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report by David Shea

David says: Since the concept of the Men's Shed was instigated by Doug and his charity. We've worked hard to establish a shed over the last six months, with the help of a lot of skilled people, we've started the Man shed, which we should be proud of.

David thanked everybody who's helped develop the Shed. He hopes will develop and thrive, giving opportunities for members to develop their skills and make new friends

David says he is "stepping down to let new blood forge the way forward to make South Woodham Ferrers Man's Shed, something he and all should be proud of".

Treasurers Report – by John Brokenbrow

The number of attendees has been most on Thursdays, average of 13 men, Monday is a lot quieter with an average of eight men, and just introduced Tuesdays, the first with only four men.

There is a balance of petty cash of £393 but have spent just over £500 for timber, with some cost towards the shed that has been built and donated to the Community Garden, at Meadowcroft. Mister Gees Foundation has agreed to pay for this, so an invoice has been raised. David Shea to submit this to Mister Gees.

Bank Account: John explained the issues on getting an account set up, as we are a not-for-profit group, the first bank wanted our Charity number, but we can't get that until we get a bank account of our own. We are pursuing Barclays Bank at present, and hope this will be open in the very near future.

Any questions?

Several questions were raised. Brian, Ray, John and Pete asked questions like 'How much do we have to pay for rent?', electric, rates etc. The answer is that currently, everything for the property is being paid in full by Mister Gees Foundation, at least until the end of June 2025. It will be after a discussion with Doug Green as to what he wants to do with the property.

Activities Report – John Bevan

John says we will need to focus on making items to sell, but that will not take precedence over what the members will want to make themselves, however, we do have potential commissions to make, as well as the standard items such as bird boxes, tables and some which are more out of the ordinary. We must try to find designs that will utilise some of the wood that we already have.

We should aim to make items for the Christmas Fayre, and need to hold a stall, maybe make some posters or other flyers and we need some sort of flag, as a sign/banner to say who we are (*as we do for the front of the Shed premises*). David did say he would get one for us. We could also make planters and bird tables (as shown under the work table). Hog boxes for Byron, but NOT to give away! Commission for dollhouses, pedal cars and more is expected for long-term projects, but we need more people and more sessions to cope with this.

Membership Report – Byron Jenkins

We have had a great response to being a member, with 44 men already signed up, but there are over 100 people on the database. Unfortunately, a lot of emails get bounced back as either spam, deleted or not recognised, so this is where people will need to be phoned to get the right details (and get them to email us so that we are not classed as spam).

Once we have a bank account, we can also ask them to pay for the membership, and if they don't want to, we can remove them.

Should we encourage men from out of town? Yes, but only after we have given those here in Woodham the chance to join us. Anyone needing to drive to our Shed could cause an issue with parking here, so not a good idea yet. We are to update the Focus to tell them about the AGM, and that we are open for business.

MOTIONS

This is to vote on a new Chairman and other committee positions, and can we approve the opening of the bank account? All show hands to be happy to commence, yes, all agreed to continue.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

The proposal of positions was read out and accepted unanimously for

Chair	- John Bevan
Secretary	- Craig Livesey
Treasurer	- John Brokenbrow
Fundraiser	- David Shea

David said at some time we will need to elect an auditor to check the accounts at the end of the financial year. David to look into this.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing of business was raised except for a thank you from David to the committee and everyone who has worked to get this place up and running, and a thank you from Ray to all at the Shed for making him so welcome and the help from everyone.

The AGM finished at 11:15

NEXT AGM

To be advised closer to June 2025