

## **Somerset Levels and Moors Shed February 2019 newsletter**

Welcome to the February 2019 members newsletter. January has seen a number of developments in the shed, not least with ongoing projects. We have seen the middle part of the shed opened up which has transformed the area and it has made for a much better working environment.

January 10<sup>th</sup> saw me pass my bus test up in Mansfield and I shall shortly be starting some part time work, this will still allow me to come to the shed but longer term may well lead to full time work. I am now in the process of applying for my provisional lorry driving entitlements and will be looking to acquire this licence next.

As always with the newsletter, your contributions are most welcome. Keep it clean and legal and I'll be happy to include it here. My contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

### **Colin writes.....**

We are not far into the New Year and new brooms sweep clean! If you haven't been to the Shed for a few weeks next time you come you will be amazed at some of the changes that have taken place. Tom and Cherrill, with their H&S hats on, have led the charge, ably assisted by several of our regular members, in clearing out a lot of old tools, wood offcuts and miscellaneous old junk that had been transferred from our Burrowbridge days, but we'd never got round to properly sorting out. That, together with further sensible modifications to some of our internal layout, now ensures that the Shed looks and feels more like an efficient workshop, and not something resembling a "Steptoe and Son" junk yard. Thanks Guys. Top job!! Let's all ensure that we keep it that way!!



Cherrill has swapped Committee Roles with Peter Smith, so if you have ideas for social events, days out etc, Peter is now the man to speak to.

We've also recently been successful in gaining a £1000 grant award from Bridgwater Town Council. We bid for the grant as a means of improving some of the health and safety aspects of our Shed. The money has been spent on two additional Record air filtration units and 5 dust collection buckets. These latter will be fitted in-line to most of our machine tools in the machine shop, helping all who are qualified to use these tools ensure that the majority of dust is collected at source and not pushed into the air that we all breathe - a big help for those of us with COPD, asthma or similar health issues.

Talking of health, members will be sad to hear that our Secretary, William, recently suffered a stroke while at home. Following a period in Yeovil Hospital he is now back home and making a good recovery. However we won't be seeing him in the Shed for many weeks. Volunteers to help with the Secretary role now required, please!

Our plans for some art display units for Bridgwater Arts Centre (BAC) are beginning to form up. If you want to get involved with this very worthwhile Community Project then speak to Cherrill (design guru!) or Tom. We will be talking again with BAC during February to confirm that our ideas align with their requirements, before starting. So if you want to get involved in this (and who wouldn't?) now's the time to put your name forward.

Finally, looking ahead to March, our AGM is due and will be held on Tuesday 26th March from 10:00-12:00 at the YMCA, just up the canal from the Shed. As the Shed won't be open that morning, (though we will open immediately the meeting is finished) you won't have anywhere else to go, so put a note in your diary to come along and vote on the issues that are important to you - activities, committee, annual membership and session fees and anything else you want to raise. Its your shed and the Committee needs to hear from you. But if the business of the AGM doesn't interest you that much, the coffee and cake at the YMCA's Purple Spoon cafe is reason enough to be there. Don't miss out!

Happy Shedding

Colin

### **Some more memories of our Shed...**

At the start of the year on a Thursday afternoon session, we received a visit from Nicki Berridge. Nicki worked in the shed when it was owned by Serck Marston in the 1980s and 1990s and she has written a short piece detailing her experiences from her time in the shed. The photos were shared on our facebook page and on the Bridgwater Past 'n' Present group and generated much interest.

Hi everyone,

My name is Nicki and I have watched with interest your transformation of the building by the canal in Bridgwater.

My interest stems from the fact that it was my place of work from 1985 until 1997 and a week ago I popped down to have a look to see how it has changed.

I was greeted with a very warm welcome and a cup of tea and was amazed at the transformation!

When I worked there it was a radiator repair centre called Serck Marston, we sold and repaired radiators for cars, commercials and the agriculture industry as well as making and supplying number plates for most of the main dealers within a 25 mile radius.

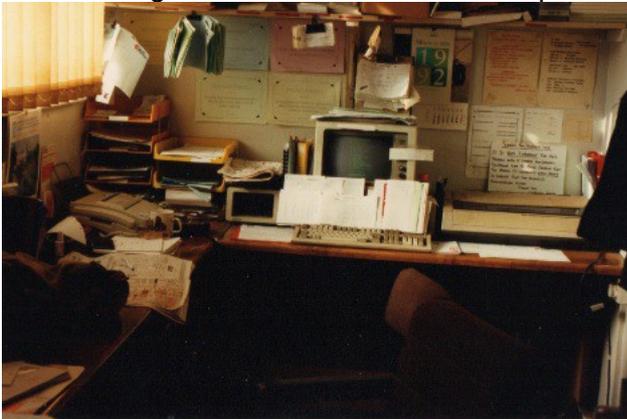
My knowledge of the building is limited, but I was told at the time that it was originally a stable for canal horses and this would seem to be the case as our office originally had a stable door, this would have been in the room to the left as you walk in and which is now bricked up.

When I worked there it was a very different place than it is now, very dark and dirty the very nature of radiator repairs means that our environment was always wet and the air heavy with the smells of flux and solder, we also used to clean the radiators down after breaking them apart with Hydrochloric Acid and this process involved firstly to heat the metal tanks to cherry red hot and then putting them in the acid bath, this caused fumes which many a radiator repairer has been caught out with, you had to hold your breath (we didn't have masks) or you would find yourself not being able to breath for about 30 seconds, quite scary!

We also had an oven which was located just inside the large door which is now closed up, this was used to dry the radiators before spraying them black in the paint booth at the bottom of the workshop, which would be at the end of your workshop right hand corner.

We had a test tank for testing the radiators which was a big tank filled with water, we would test the radiators with 15 psi of air pressure and look for any bubbles indicating leaks, this tank would have been just in front of you as you walked in through the now defunct big door.

I have found a few photos from my time there, including a couple of photos of when a car ended up in the canal, we got in one morning to see it there and Bridgwater Coachworks were called to get it out! How it got there I have no idea, I suspect it was stolen.





I was really happy to see that my name with a date still there in the putty, I see that one of my colleagues at the time wrote “stinks” just above my name....I think I know the culprit!

We had many laughs in that building it was a happy place to work even though the environment was less than appealing!

I have also found a business card from my time there, when I was promoted to manager.



APPOINTS

**NICKI BERRIDGE**

AS OUR NEW

**TEAM MANAGER**

Serck Marston is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicki Berridge as the new manager of our Bridgwater Branch. Nicki has been with the company for four years, the latter part of which was spent gaining experience in sales at other branches. Prior to joining Serck Marston, Nicki has many years experience in the automotive industry which will enable her to give the service and commitment that customers require.

Old Taunton Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 6BX. Tel: (0278) 424132/455382  
24 Hour Emergency Service Tel: (0860) 553868



**Nicki will be phoning you shortly to introduce herself and discuss how her team can help you**

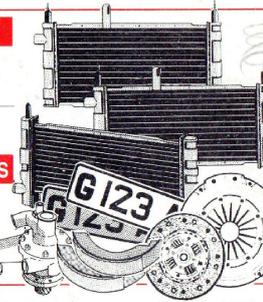
**HOW NICKI'S TEAM CAN HELP:**

**REPLACEMENT RADIATORS**

- THE SPECIALISTS FOR CAR, COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND OFF-HIGHWAY.
- EXPERT REPAIR AND REMANUFACTURE SERVICE.

**FULL PRODUCT RANGE INCLUDES**

ROAD SPRINGS • NUMBER PLATES  
TURBOCHARGERS • AIR BRAKES  
POWER STEERING • CLUTCHES  
FRICTION • WATER PUMPS  
INDUSTRIAL HEAT EXCHANGERS





**HELPING YOUR BUSINESS TO STAY AHEAD**

Thank you so much for allowing me to have a wander around it was really nice to be in that building again and reminisce.

Hopefully I can pop in again one day and meet a few more of you and see the amazing work that you do and I am so glad that the place that gave me so many great memory's is once again being used and giving pleasure to people enhancing skills and teaching new ones as well as creating a happy environment for people to get together and chat.

## Shed Projects

During January, Mike and Tony have been doing sterling work in the lathe room. Mike's first project was a pair of children's rattles.



His next project was Marcus' second bowl which Mike has done much of the work on.



Later in January both Mike and Tony have been working on a woodturned pot. The work was completed on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> and the following pictures serve to illustrate the quality of their work.



We have also seen Mark's DVD cabinet progress through January. He has been working with Cherrill to get the project finished. The photo below shows the cabinet after fitment of thinner pieces of wood to the front and the underside of the cabinet. Once work is complete, Mark intends to paint this at home.



Brian and John have been spending much of January making planters. John has made a number of wheelbarrow planters, and he has now left the shed temporarily to visit family in Portugal. We hope to see him again soon.



I have been continuing my toy painting during January but have also managed to complete two more workshop buildings for my model bus layouts. These will be clad in brick papers I have in stock and will resemble modern industrial estate units when finished. The material for buildings come from offcuts deemed to small to be used elsewhere in the shed, but for me they are just the right size and require minimal cutting. Thanks are due to Cherrill (for help with the band saw work), Dave and Tom (for help with cutting pieces on the circular saw).



*Remember, if you've got something to contribute to the newsletter, you can make contact with me via email at [newsletter.slamshed@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.slamshed@gmail.com) or just have a chat with me during a shed session.*

*For those who don't know me I'm normally the one hiding in a corner **trying** to paint things.*

**Stephen Oxbrow**  
Newsletter Editor

**Shed Opening Hours from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018:  
Tuesday 10.00-1500, Thursday 1300-1600 & Friday 1000-1500.**

**Facebook <https://tinyurl.com/ycx8vgvh> website <https://www.slamshed.org/>**