

Somerset Levels and Moors Shed

November 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.

Next Maintenance Day will be: Wednesday 28th November.

Would you be interested in helping out on maintenance days? If so, contact Gerry or John W. for more information. Volunteers are always needed. **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 please see John W or Gerry at the shed.

So if you donate or receive donated tools please let Stephen know so that he can update the asset register (this lists all the tools we have and know about).

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.

Shedder's Day Out.....

The trip to Exeter Tool and Woodcraft Show at Westpoint on Friday 26th October 2018 was a success. We started at the Shed early morning and had breakfast at the Exeter Services. The breakfast managed to get to our tables before we did.

Here is a photo of our group at the event.



More History of our Shed – by Ted Cubitt

The SLaMS building was built as a drying shed for the Hamp Brick and Tile Works, which was situated over Old Taunton Road, where Manley Gardens is now. The whole of Old Taunton Road, on the Shed side up to the terraced houses had buildings to do with the Brick Works, including what is now the scaffolding yard and Turner Close.

What is now La Ciotat House was originally Bridgwater Gas Works. When gas was nationalized in 1948, the South West Gas Board took over the buildings which now form the scaffolding yard and Turner Close, and made a distribution depot for gas appliances, for which at that time they had a monopoly.

John Browne was a merchant, who was born in Bridgwater in 1799. In 1830 the brickworks was known as Browne, Champion & Co. but it was Browne & Co. by 1840. In 1827 W D Champion and John Browne took out a patent for Bath Brick. John Browne was a principal of a number of Brick, Tile and Cement Works around Bridgwater. He was a director of the Bristol and Exeter Railway, elected Deputy Chairman in 1847. The B&E opened the first railway to Bridgwater in 1841.

The family played an active part in the running of the Unitarian Chapel, Dampiet Street, Bridgwater. John was leader of the Liberal Party in Bridgwater. A member of Bridgwater Borough Council and Mayor five times, in 1855, 1861, 1862, 1864 and 1865. He was a Justice of the Peace for the County and an Alderman. For many years he was chairman of the Board of Guardians, ill health forcing him to retire in 1866.

Upon his death on 2nd October 1872, he was interred in the family vault in Wembdon Road Cemetery. The funeral was attended by the Mayor, the Corporation of Bridgwater and many leading inhabitants of Bridgwater.

John married Mary Ann Pine, who was born 25-12-1791, daughter of John and Elizabeth Pine, on 25th July 1820 in St. Mary's Church, Bridgwater. They had three known daughters, Sophia born 1821, Emily, born 1823 and Fanny, born 1824. The family first lived in St Mary Street, Bridgwater then later in Elm Wood House, Hamp Street, Bridgwater.

The house has long since gone, the site is now occupied by Robert Blake Science College.

Prior to the 1837 Registration Act, the only place you could get married was in a CofE Church.

Colin writes.....

ShedFest 2018 is the annual celebration of Men's Sheds across the UK organised by the UK Mens Shed Association (UKMSA).

I attended the 2017 event in Northampton. Although a long way to travel and return

The logo for National ShedFest 2018 features the word 'National' in blue above 'ShedFest' in a larger blue font, with '2018' in green. To the left is a graphic of vertical bars in green and blue.

in one day in dark November it was a hugely worthwhile day. Lots to see and learn about.

For 2018, the event is being held at the University of Worcester Arena, so a lot closer than Northampton! UKMSA has designed the 2018 programme to give Sheds a chance to celebrate their stories, talk about their challenges, feel informed about key issues for Men's Sheds, and have a chance to have your say about UKMSA at the AGM.

For 2018, I have obtained 20 tickets (should be enough, surely?), so if you want to go, sign up on the ShedFest 2018 sheet in the Snug, no later than Thursday 8th November.

Please note: Free tickets for SLAMS Members ONLY (otherwise £5 on the door),

Here is the programme for the day:

- 0900 Exhibition opens
- 1015 Welcome
- 1030 Vision 2020 – *Findings from the national survey and strategy to 2020*
- 1100 Keynote Speaker – *Followed by the presentation to Shed of the Year*
- 1145 Break, networking and exhibition
- 1215 Workshop Session One
- 1300 Lunch, networking and exhibition
- 1400 Annual General Meeting
- 1500 Workshop Session Two
- 1545 Break, networking and exhibition
- 1615 Workshop Session Three
- 1700 Plenary
- 1730 Close

The exhibition area will be open from 9am to 5pm during the day. A number of partners, organisations and others will demonstrate skills and supply information and inspiration for your Shed. The 2017 exhibition was very worthwhile and interesting, and for most Sheddors was the real highlight of the day and the main reason for

attending. Last year lunch was free, but don't get too excited- its not cordon bleu! Please note that "Workshop Sessions" are NOT practical woodwork sessions but are talks and discussions on topics of relevance to running a Shed. **Places are very limited.** However, I have reserved 5 places on each session for SLaMS as talks are not everybody's cup of tea, nor will most SLaMS Shedders want to attend more than one or two. So sign up for those of interest to you (max 3 workshops/SLaMS Shedder, max 5 SLaMS Shedders/workshop. First come, first served. Otherwise enjoy the exhibition!

The workshop sessions are...

- **Is your Shed safe?** A pragmatic approach to risk, workshop safety, extraction, PAT.
- **What is a Social prescription?** Might Sheds become a service for GPs?
- **Future-proofing your Shed:** Key factors in managing Sheds and succession plans.
- **What's your story?** A practical guide to social media, and various channels available.
- **Fundraising for Sheds:** Discussion on a mixed economy for Shed income generation.
- **Managing Referrals:** Social services referrals without affecting your Shed's culture.
- **UKMSA's future purpose:** An opportunity to influence the future of UKMSA.

More detailed information, see the UKMSA website www.mensheds.org.uk

Any other questions, catch me in the Shed, or contact me at home, details below.

Colin

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The Next day out is (being an idea from Stephen & Chris) a trip to SHEDFEST at Worcester on the Saturday 17th November. This is the national meeting of the UK Men's Shed Association of which SLaMS is a member. To book a place put your name on list on notice board.

There are different workshops going on within the SHEDFEST event you can put your name down for up to 3 of these.

This is a free entry event for SLaMS members only

A block booking has already been made and we are arranging car share. Volunteer Drivers Please.

Please add your name ASAP.

Teetotal and you have a car? This is your chance to shine.....

Our Christmas Lunch and Drink's in Bridgwater town centre is now confirmed for **Thursday 20th December** at Wetherspoons. The list is now on the notice board. 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.

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.**

Due to legs turning to Jelly after several pints of loopy juice Gerry may well require being poured into a car and returned home at Taunton Road some time afterwards please. Mike Dando 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.

Planter number 2 was collected by Katherine on behalf of the Somerset Bridge Medical Centre Gardening Club. Bert & Marcus worked together to complete the second planter. The second finished planter is wheelchair friendly on one side. When this was collected the words I heard were "BETTER THAN WE EVER EXPECTED"

Another happy customer. We wish the Gardening Group every success, and look forward to seeing flowers next spring.

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Bert along with the help of Marcus & Dave plus a few others have been working on the pair of boat shaped planters. These will go to the Bridgwater Canal Docks. The first planter has been "launched" on Tuesday 23rd October. It now needs a coat of paint/stain and lining to finish. The second should be rowed out shortly. Comprehensive sea trials are being conducted by Marcus before the delivery of both boats in order to iron out any teething issues.

New to the Shed??

Come and introduce yourself. Not sure how it works or if it's for you? Get yourself a cup of coffee and someone is bound to ask where's my coffee or just come start talking like they have known you for ever. Take 5 minutes out and look around what everyone is doing. I play a game called spot the unhappy guy.

Not sure what to do or how to start? Everyone, including you, has a skill and everyone in the shed wants your help,

Gerry can usually point you in the direction of the wood, & tools, you need.

There's lots going on at the shed this month - so come in and be involved.

Contact Details for Gerry (Editor)

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Face book: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx8vgvh>

I welcome ideas and stories for the newsletter. Come forward, tell us through the newsletter how you the shedder's want your Shed to evolve. I 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. Please contact a Committee member to express your interest.

Next Newsletter will be 1st of December please submit any item or photographs you would like included in it before 25th November.