

What are Men's Sheds?

Men's Sheds are spaces to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. Men's Sheds are also about social connections, friendship-building, sharing skills, knowledge and enjoying a cup of tea and a chat.

History of Men's Sheds

Men's Sheds began in the 1990s in Australia as a response to the lack of opportunities for men to build links socially. The Australian Men's Shed Association (ASMA) now support over 1200 Men's, Women's and Community Sheds.

The first Men's Shed in the UK was started by Age UK Cheshire in 2008. The first community-led (grassroots) Men's Shed in the UK was started in April 2011 by UK Men's Sheds Association President Mike Jenn: Camden Town Shed.

Currently there are over 1000 Men's Sheds in the UK and around 200 more in development.

The UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA) was founded in 2013, and became a charity in 2015, becoming the central body representing, supporting and raising awareness of the Men's Sheds movement. There are Men's Sheds Associations in Ireland and Scotland offering a more localised focus and the UKMSA recently merged with Men's Sheds Cymru.

What do Men's Sheds look like?

Members of Men's Sheds are known informally as 'Shedders' and they wear that badge with pride! The typical Shedder is an older retired man; however, many Sheds welcome members of any age and gender. No two Sheds are alike...

- Sizes range from a small handful of members who may be open an afternoon a week, to larger Sheds with 70 or more members who are open throughout the week.
- Some are run by organisations and others are set up and run by members of the local community.
- Men's Sheds are individually funded; some are community organisations; others are registered charities. All are independent of the UKMSA.
- Men's Sheds can be in buildings, portable cabins, warehouses, garages, boats, disused mortuaries (as well as actual sheds!).
- While many develop to have purpose-built workshops, they often don't start that way.
- Activities in Men's Sheds vary and depend on the Shedders, but woodworking and metalwork are common. Other pursuits include repairing and restoring, electronics, model buildings, bicycle, art, gardening repairs, even car-building!

For further information about Men's Sheds visit our website www.menssheds.org.uk or find your local Shed by scanning the QR code.

