

BLACK PARK SHED

Registered Charity: 1198184



Annual Report and Accounts

1st October 2023 - 30th September 2024

*The following people served as trustees
for the period covered by this report:*

Mark Lemon

Chairman

Les Stone

Secretary

Mark Hammersley

Treasurer (to the 19th February 2024)

Steve Barnes

Treasurer (from the 22nd April 2024)

Jim Vaux

Phil Parker

Nick Sidhu

Simon Kibble

Black Park Shed
c/o Black Park Country Park
Black Park Road
Wexham
SL3 6DS

Chairman's Report to the AGM 7th November 2024 (period 1/10/23 to 30/9/24)

Charity Objects

Black Park Shed. Registered charity 1198184

The aims (objects) of the Shed are:

1. **To promote social inclusion** for the public benefit by preventing people particularly but not exclusively, older men and women, throughout the South of England from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society through the provision of facilities in which they can meet jointly or individually to undertake creative, physical or recreational activities, learn or pass on skills and knowledge and support each other socially.

For the purpose of this clause 'socially excluded' means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors: bereavement, financial hardship; old age or ill health (physical or mental).

2. For the public benefit, **the preservation and protection of good health** among people in the South of England, including those who are retired, unemployed or have health problems, through the provision of facilities for hobbies, recreation or other leisure time occupation including practical interests, skills sharing, the learning of new skills, and helping with community-based projects

The Shed submitted its annual return to the Charities Commission within the required timeframe.

Membership and attendance

We opened the year with a small waiting list which was subsequently cleared. We currently have 52 members and 8 Friends. We welcomed twelve new members this year: Mel Armitage, Anne Altner, Steve Barnes, Satish Basra, Derek and Freda Betts, Roger Bull, Ed Gawluck, Dave Hoare, John Laoutas, Claude Meggit and Vinny Patel. Dave Guyett joined after the financial year.

Most new member enquiries come via the web, word of mouth, social media, or after seeing us at our Christmas and Easter stalls. We also receive referrals from social prescribers of local GP surgeries.

Total sessions attended, excluding training were almost flat year on year at 2018 compared to 2001 last year. This will tend to be a slight understatement, as some members forget to log in. This is an average of 8.8 members per day that we are open. The reason for the increase in membership, but flat attendance is almost entirely explained by fact several of our more regular attendees have been absent due to medical conditions. We wish them a speedy recovery and return.

There were no days that we operated at our maximum capacity of 15, therefore we are keeping our membership open.

Membership has once more been held at £20 p.a. and £3 per week attended. Thanks to Jason for maintaining both our informative web, and the booking system. Thanks also to Les for his weekly photo updates which reflect the spread of our activities for prospective members, and help keep those who cannot attend feel connected.

Welfare

By making use of the booking system, the committee are able to spot people who haven't been for a while. This lets us check in with them to see if we can offer any support. As you have seen in recent emails, we are looking to formalise this somewhat for those who wish it. After the AGM closes, we will have an open discussion on how members would like welfare to operate within our Shed.

We have decided to keep the 'friends' category of member for those who are unable to attend, perhaps due to ill health or because of carer responsibilities. This is free, keeps the person in the loop, and allows them to fully re-join if their circumstances change. We currently have eight such members.

Last year we inaugurated a free Friday coffee morning for members who are currently unable to fully participate in Shed activities. These have been well received, but slightly erratic in attendance.

Members attention is drawn to the extensive range of UKMSA Health and Wellbeing pamphlets published on the web, covering such topics as prostate cancer.

Projects

The committee try and ensure we all have an interesting mix of projects, while giving members lots of free time to undertake their own work. These give members a chance to acquire new skills, and get to know each other better. I will just give a flavour of this, as the full list is quite extensive.

Once again, we held a series of most successful craft stalls at both Christmas and Easter. These have now become well known in the Park community, and have grown to be significant income generators. Furthermore, they are great PR and have attracted several new members over the years. Thanks to Nick and all helpers.

In spring, we were approached by UKMSA to convert a Shed into a publicity prop that was centre stage in the Houses of Parliament Portcullis House. The effort involved paid off as the creation was visited by many MPs and members of the House of Lords. Probably the best PR that UKMSA had hoped for. The Shed was also displayed at a key event by the Muslim Council of Great Britain, and also our own ShedFest. It will be having further outings at trade shows, drumming up support for UK Sheds.

On the community side the main project managed by Phil, has been making raised planters for the community allotment site at Ragstone Road in Slough. This has enabled residents with a range of disabilities to partake in this sociable activity. Smaller projects took place creating benches for a church and tree stump table tops for a local school.

Pete led the work on a beautiful community bench erected on behalf of the Iver Heath brownies and guides. This received much local publicity.

Our longest running project is the ongoing repairs and maintenance to the San Remo café chairs and table, led by Chas.

Refurbishing work aid tools is another long term relationship we continue to foster, headed by Les.

Pete led various teams in creating a wide range of activities and displays for the Black Park Forest School and the Events Team - from mermaids to musical notes, wooden cars to owls.

Pete, Emile and other members quickly made a disabled access ramp for the Forest School Camp, but we had no other work from the parks nor Groundworks Trust, due to other financial priorities, including the new café. A few years back, this would have been a major blow, but having developed other income streams, and our professional approach to grant applications, this has had a lesser impact. The good news is that we are looking at projects for them that may be completed in the coming six months

Many thanks to all who have helped, which is pretty much every member at some stage.

Annexe

This is a regular agenda item for our committee meetings. Chris Hosey has agreed to oversee this project through its early stages. We have now completed a survey of the existing building, and identified those in the local Council who we have approached for further help. Unfortunately, this is still progressing at a slower rate than we would have liked, due to a lack of engagement from the council.

Health and Safety

Health and Safety is led by Nick. The comprehensive H&S risk assessment continues to develop as necessary, most recently with respect to working off-site and ensuring training is adequately risk assessed. Our Health and Safety risk assessment and policy can be found in the folder on the mess library shelves and on the members' google drive.

Phil continues with the rolling programme to PAT test relevant appliances. John Gill kindly undertook his PAT exams this year in order to support Phil in this work. Members should ensure Phil is advised of any additional electrical items brought into the Shed (both new and second-hand), and place a 'do not use' tag on it until logged / tested as necessary. These can be found on the mess noticeboard.

In the summer, we undertook a professional one-off fire safety survey of the Shed, and have acted on the resulting report, including adding heat sensors to the main working areas.

We ran a first aid course in conjunction with the Red Cross. Eight members received their "Safety at work certificate", which lasts three years. This ensures adequate cover is available at all times.

The fire safety survey, and first aid training was kindly paid for out of our Rothschild Foundation Grant.

Training

Phil and Ken have continued to expand the range of training courses made available to members. Courses were held on pen making, pyrography, forest crafts, wood carving, wood turning, musical instrument making and sign-making. Some courses have been run more than once due to high demand. Formal feedback, via course appraisals, has been most positive. All agree this is a great way to extend our skills.

Phil, Ken and Vinny wrote an impressive report for Rothschild Foundation, which resulted in their immediate release of a further £1750 for additional training!

The course fee of £5 - £20 for external trainers helps ensure participant commitment, and makes the budget stretch farther. Based on feedback, we have changed the system from 'first come first served' to giving priority to those who have attended fewer courses. Courses will continue to be held approximately monthly on Wednesdays.

UKMSA links

We continue to be actively engaged with the UK Men's Sheds Association (UKMSA), and make use of their expertise and knowledge sharing. We benefit from their various sponsor companies' generous discounts and free offers.

We are actively supporting the re-launch of a Chilterns area sub group, and have attended meetings which are held about every 3-4 months. Our role so far has been more in giving advice than receiving. This forum is also a quick way to pass on surplus tools, especially bereavement clearances, which have been donated for 'Shed use'.

Governance

The committee for the year comprised:

Mark Lemon	Chairman & officer
Les Stone	Secretary & officer
Mark Hammersley	Treasurer and officer (resigned 19/2/24)
Steve Barnes	Treasurer & officer (appointed 22/4/24)
Jim Vaux	Quartermaster
Phil Parker	PAT testing, Training
Nick Sidhu	H&S
Simon Kibble	General

The non-officer roles are non-specific, however the above reflects the key activities of those members during the year. The Committee members are also Trustees of Black Park Shed and are registered with the Charities Commission.

The committee met a total of 11 times during the year.

The Shed has policies covering GDPR, adult safeguarding, behaviour, health and safety, equalities and diversity, in addition to risk assessments as mentioned above.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Chairman, and thank all those on the committee and Shed members for their support. In particular, I would like to publicly thank Steve, who took on the role of Treasurer at short notice, and Jim, who is stepping back from the committee after six years of service, but continuing his role as quartermaster.

That concludes my annual report.

Mark Lemon
Chairman

TREASURERS REPORT 2023-24 (1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024)

INCOME

	£'s
Annual Membership Fees	£ 364.00
Weekly Meeting Subs	£ 3,823.92
Donations	£ 459.31
BPS Clothing	£ 613.75
Training	£ 375.00
Other Income	£ 135.11

Fundraising

Sales of Goods	£ 3,036.47
Workshop Projects	£ 2,249.37

Grants

Rothschild	£ 1,750.00
Bank Interest	£ 116.80

TOTAL INCOME	£ 12,923.73
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EXPENDITURE

	£'s
Insurance	£ (807.13)
UKMSA Annual Fee	£ (30.00)
Training Fees	£ (2,041.19)
Telephone, Printer, etc	£ (423.70)
Mess Room Expenses	£ (722.11)
Tools & Equipment	£ (1,448.87)
General Items	£ (68.99)
Workshop Consumables	£ (1,241.81)
Building Renovation	£ (447.86)
Workshop Projects	£ (696.83)
Paypal Fees	£ (34.67)
Travel Expenses	£ (892.50)
Branded Clothing	£ (604.80)
Goods for Sale	£ (148.46)
Training Supplies	£ (333.71)
Health & Safety	£ (567.98)
Governance	£ (537.00)
Marketing	£ (34.89)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ (11,082.50)
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SURPLUS from 2023/24	£ 1,841.23
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FUNDS AVAILABLE	2022/23	2023/24
Cash	£ 1,101.63	£ 33.28
Natwest Bank Account	£ 16,294.03	£ 9,239.07
Natwest Reserve Account	£ -	£ 10,000.00
Paypal	£ 35.46	£ -
TOTAL	£ 17,431.12	£ 19,272.35
Surplus 2023/24		£ 1,841.23

Notes

1. It is proposed that the membership and weekly meeting subscriptions remain the same for 2024/25
2. Items of equipment purchased include new Ryobi impact drivers and batteries (£656) and new Workshop Radio (£99)
3. Projects included: San Remo - £972.31; Iver Heath Borwnies - £780; Bucks County Council - £250; St Thomas More Church - £85.65