

# THE SILVERS' WORKSHOP

England & Wales · Charity number 1159283

## Details

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Other names	Reading Men's Shed
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-11-19
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	The Silvers Workshop 37 Hilcot Road Reading RG30 2SX
Phone	01183913545
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@thesilversworkshop.org.uk">contact@thesilversworkshop.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.thesilversworkshop.org.uk">www.thesilversworkshop.org.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF MEN LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF READING AND WOKINGHAM TO COMBAT LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION BY THE PROVISION OF A WORKSHOP WHERE THEY CAN MEET AND ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES TOGETHER ONLY LIMITED BY THEIR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE INDEPENDENTLY, AIMED AT INCREASING THEIR ENGAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF LIFE .

**Activities:** The Silvers Workshop provides a workshop with wood and metal-working tools where older men can come to make and mend things and socialise and enjoy the camaraderie of work without the pressures. We are based in Reading in Berkshire and membership is available to men in the vicinity of Reading, Wokingham, West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Recreation
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** READING AND WOKINGHAM
- Bracknell Forest
- Hampshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- West Berkshire
- Wokingham

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£22,348	£15,130	-	-
2024-12-31	£32,148	£17,219	-	-
2023-12-31	£23,979	£12,507	-	-
2022-12-31	£15,736	£13,641	-	-
2021-12-31	£11,739	£14,338	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Stuart James Freebody</b>	Chair	2023-01-20
ANTHONY SMITH-CRALLAN		2017-01-14
Barry Fowler		2018-01-26
David Catton		2016-01-29
Edward Charles Burden		2024-10-27
Kevin Organ		2026-01-22
Peter Dewsnap		2020-01-24
Robert Wilson Whittle		2022-01-28
Wilfrid Daniel Owen Mayes		2024-10-27

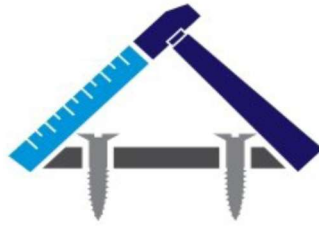
**THE SILVERS' WORKSHOP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159283

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# Accounts

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**The Silvers' Workshop**  
Charity Registration No. 1159283

# Annual Report to the Charities Commission

**2025**

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**General Statement.**

This is our eleventh annual report and marks a year where we have concentrated on building partnerships and doing what we can to improve conditions within our Workshop area to the benefit of our members.

Despite a better interaction with our Landlord, the Trustees continue to have concerns about how long we may be able to stay within our present workshop, and consequently we are concerned about investing capital in the fabric of the building, but we also recognise that doing nothing would be a false economy.

The Silvers' Workshop draws members from the wider Reading Area and is a member of the UK Men's Shed Association, with over eleven-hundred member sheds throughout the British Isles (Source UKMSA – March 2024).

Our aim is to provide a safe space for men to socialise, connect, converse and create, and by doing so help reduce loneliness and isolation which affects many older men.

Membership has been relatively static during 2025 following two years of growth, but it is encouraging that we have continued to attract new members and welcome back a small number of non-attendees during the year. The Workshop continues to open to members for four hours, five days a week.

**Governance and Management.**

At the end of 2025 we had eight Trustees who sit at least four times a year to review policy, finance and governance. All meetings are fully recorded and the Minutes, once approved, are made available to members for all to scrutinise and comment upon accordingly. This allows for openness and full transparency. During 2025, the Charity has continued to operate without a Secretary, but a number of members have assisted the Trustees and the Management Committee, ensuring that Meeting Agendas and Minutes are captured and acted upon.

Our Management Team consists of thirteen members, which includes the Trustees. This team manages the workshop on a day-to-day basis, implementing the policies and budgets set out and approved by the Trustees. The Management Team focus on matters relating to Health and Safety, Property, and Social, and seeking out opportunities for fund raising – including the management of projects to deliver goods for sale.

The Management Team aim to meet monthly, except for August and work to an agreed agenda. All meetings are fully recorded and copies of the minutes, once approved are available to all members for all to read and comment upon, again, promoting openness and transparency.

All Trustees and Team Members give their time freely and no remuneration or expenses have been paid during this last year, other than expenses duly incurred whilst undertaking official workshop business.

No Trustee receives any benefit which is not available to the wider membership.

**Membership.**

Membership remains open to men who meet our objectives and can demonstrate their general mobility. Our membership has remained at 70 with the arrival of new members balancing the loss of members who have died or moved away.

**External Links.**

We continue to work closely with both Reading Voluntary Action who offer us free advice and training and U.K. Men's Shed Association which gives us access to all Men's Sheds in the UK. During 2025, we have also connected with Reading Council's Older Persons' Working Group, which is chaired by the Deputy Mayor. This has allowed us to link with other groups supporting older people in the Community such as Age Concern, to hear their concerns and to ensure a greater awareness of the Mens' Shed community in and around Reading.

We have also taken the opportunity to further build our relationship with the Cancer Rehabilitation team at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and have again attended two wellness events that they have run for patients and their partners. We have used these events not as opportunities to sell goods, but to share the wellness benefits and support that we are able to provide for our members.

The local community, councillors and businesses continue to help promote the Workshop and have assisted us greatly in the last 12 months. In particular we thank Laithwaite Wines, and The John Lewis Partnership for their continued support for the Workshop and our members.

**About this last year**

We have continued to look for alternative accommodation, but we have not been able to either secure anything suitable through bids to the local Council, nor on the open market. Trustees looked at two commercial properties this year, but it quickly became clear that we will need to raise a significant amount of funds to secure a property in the area, and that we cannot rely on the support of a significant benefactor on less-than commercial terms. We continue to do what we can by fundraising through attending car boot sales and holding open days, and transferring surplus funds to our Reserved Fund.

We again opened the Workshop this Autumn, which we branded as a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. As well as allowing us to sell some of our member merchandise to raise funds, opening the Workshop allows members of the local community to come in and meet with members and to hear about the benefits that they have gained from attending the Workshop.

We were also invited to run a charity stall in John Lewis in Reading on two separate occasions to raise awareness of the Shed, and the benefit that we can provide for members.

**Major Projects.**

Internally, the project to weatherproof and insulate the extension to the lean-to at the back of the workshop became a priority and has allowed us additional indoor (rather than undercover) working space, including a "hot works" area.

During the year, members supported efforts to create goods for sale at various shows, including the Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society Show, where we were guests on the Laithwaites Stand; and the Swallowfield Show where we had our own stand.

One of our members has concentrated on producing garden benches and chairs using cast metal bench ends that had been donated to us, and hard wood that we

have purchased to make the slats. These have proved very popular, but time (and space) consuming. Following the UK Mens' Shed Bench Campaign in the Autumn, we also received a commission for a Supporters' Bench to be used at Reading FC Home matches. This will be produced during 2026.

### **Men's Health & Well-Being.**

Men's Sheds continue to make a significant contribution to the improvement of health and well-being of all members generally. This is true of The Reading Mens' Shed where many friendships and skills have been made and learnt over the past ten years. The health and safety of all our members continues to be a priority concern for our Trustees.

### **The Future.**

This remains fluid, but we continue to look for suitable and affordable alternative accommodation and speak with local councillors and press about our needs. As noted in previous years, we are still unable to objectively plan and set dates for events or long-term projects until our landlords share with us what they intend doing with the property, and when. With this in mind, we are pleased that our Landlord took the opportunity to visit the Workshop in the autumn and meet with some of our Trustees.

### **Financial Report and Balance Sheet.**

2025 has been another positive year for the Charity, but has required some careful stewardship of our funds. Total income for the year was £22,347 (2024 £32,148), and total expenditure £15,129 (2024 £17,218).

The £11,600 donation received from the Bereavement Team at Reading Borough Council at the end of 2024 was designated as Reserved Funds, and has been used to cover our annual rental costs, with the remainder adding to our "Capital Account" which we continue to use to set-aside against our expected change of premises.

In the late summer we were awarded a £3,000 grant from the Reading Borough Council Household Fund. This grant was for the provision of workshop tools and insulating the workshop area which needs insulation; and subsidising member benefits such as community buses, coach hire, speakers at members events, funding first aid courses for members and covering membership fees where appropriate. Consequently, the Trustees were pleased to authorise the expenditure on the continued improvements to the lean-to, and also the purchase of a new Mitre/Bevel saw, and a used Laser Cutter. The majority of the expense for the Laser Cutter will be included in the 2026 accounts.

2025 saw the end of the Council Covid subsidy for Rates, meaning that our Rates bill for the Workshop more than doubled to £475 for the year. At the same time, our 3-year fixed-rate Gas contract came to an end at the end of 2024, and our 2025 bill also doubled to £1,036. The majority of our other operating costs have remained relatively static this year.

In summary, we ended £7,200 (2025 £15,000) better than we started it, and we need to continue to insulate ourselves for our expected move out of Hilcot Road. We have delayed attending to damage due to water ingress through the roof and in the Pazzard Room, but we cannot continue to ignore this.

With this in mind, the Membership were asked to consider an increase in our annual membership fee to £84 per year (from £70). This was agreed at an EGM held in September, to take effect from the new financial year beginning 1 Jan 2026. The members also agreed that we should all move to monthly standing order payments of £7 to assist in the tracking and management of membership fees.

The Silvers' Workshop

Charity Registration No. 1159283

Year ending 31 December 2025

Income and Expenditure Record as at: 31 December 2025

Income	Unreserved Funds	Reserved Funds	Total Funds
<b>Funds Brought Forward from 2024</b>	<b>18,179.89</b>	<b>44,838.54</b>	<b>63,018.43</b>
Membership	3,595.00		
Daily Attendance	5,487.94		
Member Sales	1,091.50		
Public Fundraising	4,350.94		
Grants and Donations	2,178.15	3,000.00	
Legacies	-	-	
Other Charitable Activities	2,861.48		
Bank Interest	608.17		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,173.18</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>23,173.18</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Unreserved Funds</b>	<b>Reserved Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
Gas	1,036.25		
Electric	1,292.53		
Water	372.30		
Broadband	343.04		
Phone	93.48		
Rent		6,000.00	
Rates	479.93		
Insurance	576.15		
Waste Collection	364.00		
Card Commission Payments	109.99		
Other Trade Invoices	223.10		
Fundraising administration	411.95		
General Office Costs	283.94		
Machine Room			
Tools	1,587.55	-	
Consumables	974.22		
Other	349.00	543.49	
Property	526.20		
Mess Room	408.19		
Member Events	215.05		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9,646.87</b>	<b>6,543.49</b>	<b>16,190.36</b>
<b>Transfer to Reserved Funds</b>	<b>-20,000.00</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	
<b>Funds Carried Forward to 2026</b>	<b>48,706.20</b>	<b>61,295.05</b>	<b>70,001.25</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>10,526.31</b>	<b>-3,543.49</b>	<b>6,982.82</b>

This completes The Silvers' Workshop, Annual Charities Commission Report for 2025, on this day

Signed

Barry Fowler  
Chairman.

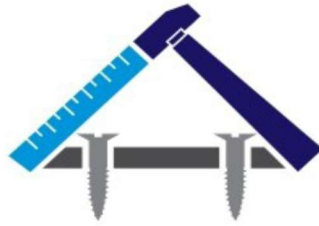
**THE SILVERS' WORKSHOP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159283

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# Accounts

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**The Silvers' Workshop**  
Charity Registration No. 1159283

# Annual Report to the Charities Commission

2024

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**General Statement.**

This is our tenth annual report and reflects a period of consolidation for the Charity. We continue to have concerns about how long we may be able to stay within our present workshop. Our landlords have continued to seek Planning Consent to redevelop the plot, despite rejections from the Local Authority then the Secretary of State. Throughout this process, as in previous cases, we have had no approach from our landlords to explain their proposals, and we don't expect this to change. We continue to review local planning applications on a regular basis, fully expecting to find that yet another application has been made for our site.

Membership has continued to rise following the trend established in the latter part of 2023, and the Workshop is back to opening five days a week.

The Silvers' Workshop draws members from the wider Reading Area and is a member of the UK Men's Shed Association, with over eleven-hundred member sheds throughout the British Isles (Source UKMSA – March 2024).

Our aim is to provide a safe space for men to socialise, connect, converse and create, and by doing so help reduce loneliness and isolation which affects many older men.

**Governance and Management.**

At the end of 2024 we had eight Trustees who sit at least four times a year to review policy, finance and governance. All meetings are fully recorded and the Minutes, once approved, are made available to members for all to scrutinise and comment upon accordingly. This allows for openness and full transparency. During 2024, the Charity has been operating without a Secretary, but a number of members have assisted the Trustees and the Management Committee, ensuring that Meeting Agendas and Minutes are captured and acted upon.

Our Management Team consists of thirteen members, which includes the Trustees. This team manages the workshop on a day-to-day basis, implementing the policies and budgets set out and approved by the Trustees. The Management Team focus on matters relating to Health and Safety, Property, and Social, and seeking out opportunities for fund raising – including the management of projects to deliver goods for sale.

The Management Team meet monthly, except for August and work to an agreed agenda. All meetings are fully recorded and copies of the minutes, once approved are available to all members for all to read and comment upon, again, promoting openness and transparency.

All Trustees and Team Members give their time freely and no remuneration or expenses have been paid during this last year, other than expenses duly incurred whilst undertaking official workshop business.

No Trustee receives any benefit which is not available to the wider membership.

**Membership.**

Membership remains open to men who meet our objectives and can demonstrate their general mobility. Our membership has remained at 70 with the arrival of new members balancing the loss of members who have died or moved away. During 2024, we sadly lost 3 members who had played a significant part in the establishment of the Silvers' Workshop.

### **External Links.**

We continue to work closely with both Reading Voluntary Action who offer us free advice and training and U.K. Men's Shed Association which gives us access to all Men's Sheds in the UK. Both the local community and local businesses are also very willing to help us to promote the Workshop and have assisted us greatly in the last 12 months. Our thanks go, in particular, to Laithwaite Wines, The John Lewis Partnership and ASDA Tilehurst for their continued support.

### **About this last year.**

This year has again been about consolidation and rebuilding. We again held a family picnic at the local National Trust property, Basildon House, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

We have continued to look for alternative accommodation, but we have not been able to either secure anything suitable through bids to the local Council, nor on the open market. We will need to raise a significant amount of funds to secure a property in the area without the support of a significant benefactor, but we continue to do what we can by fundraising through attending car boot sales and holding open days.

As well as allowing us to sell some of our member merchandise to raise funds, opening the Workshop allowed members of the local community to come in and meet with members and to hear about the benefits that they have gained from attending the Workshop. Not surprisingly, we also attracted a number of new members from the event.

### **Projects.**

With the struggle to find an alternative space, and a growing number of members returning to the Workshop on a more regular basis, making the most of our existing space became a priority during 2024.

We were fortunate to win a Lottery Grant of just less than £10,000 at the end of 2023 – part of which was for the improvement and operation of the Workshop – and the Trustees agreed that this should be used to weatherseal and extend the covered working space available at the rear of the Workshop. We also used the grant to purchase a Personal Appliance Testing (PAT) Kit, and training for some of our members, to remove the annual cost of testing our plug-in tools and appliances.

### **Men's Health & Well-Being.**

Men's Sheds continue to make a significant contribution to the improvement of health and well-being of all members generally. This is true of The Silvers' Workshop where many friendships and skills have been made and learnt over the past ten years.

### **The Future.**

This remains fluid, but we continue to look for suitable and affordable alternative accommodation, and speak with local councillors and press about our needs. As noted last year, we are still unable to objectively plan and set dates for events or long-term projects until our landlords share with us what they intend doing with the property and when.

## **Financial Report and Balance Sheet.**

Overall, 2024 has been another positive year for the Charity, but it might have looked very different without a number of significant donations – some of which we expected, but some which were a complete surprise.

In December we were the beneficiary of a £11,600 donation from the Bereavement Team at Reading Borough Council, we also received donations from John Lewis totalling £2,666, The Co-op of £2,300, Caversham Masonic Lodges of £700, and £120 in memory of Dave Woodhead.

These made a considerable contribution to our Operating Surplus for 2024, as has the £2539 raised through public sales – both Car Boot sales where we have benefitted from selling surplus tools, and the stalls that we have run at Laithwaites and Visa to sell items that members have produced.

It is pleasing to note that even without this extraordinary income stream, our general expenditure would have been covered by our income from Membership Fees, and the Daily Attendance levy. Note that our Rent has been taken from Reserved funds in 2024, which has made this possible, and the Trustees have agreed to a proposal that we continue to pay our Rent from Reserved Funds going forward. This allows us to maintain our Membership Fees and Daily Attendance at £70 and £3 respectively for 2025.

Turning to our Expenses, the £990 for fundraising administration is the amount that we paid to Sarah Snow for submitting our application to the Lottery Fund for the £9908 received at the end of 2023.

There is significant expenditure associated with the materials for the repairs to the Lean-to, including two skips to remove waste associated with the building works, and the materials that we needed to buy. Most of this has come from Reserved Funds which has insulated our current account from the cost, but also reduced the amount that we have added to our “Capital Account” which we continue to use to set-aside against our expected change of premises.

Also from Reserved Funds, we purchased the PAT kit, including member training to use the kit, purchased and installed a network of smoke and heat alarms, and invested in the installation of the defibrillator in Hilcot Road.

While our General Office Costs appear high, this includes the rectification of a small number of bank errors in our favour, where we had received payment from members' accounts in error.

In summary, we ended the year almost £15,000 better than we started it, but as the Trustees have noted, this means that we have just about recovered to where we were before the Pandemic in 2020. Looking forward, we need to continue to insulate ourselves for our expected move out of Hilcot Road, and we know that we will incur some costs related to water ingress through the roof and in the Pazzard Room, but we have started 2025 in a healthy position.

Our Accounts have been submitted to independent review, as required by the Charity Commission due to our income meeting their threshold for this requirement.

**The Silvers' Workshop**  
**Charity Registration No. 1159283**  
**Year ending 31 December 2024**  
**Income and Expenditure Record as at 31 December 2024**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Unreserved Funds</b>	<b>Reserved Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
<b>Funds Brought Forward from 2023</b>	<b>4,878.29</b>	<b>42,975.52</b>	<b>47,853.81</b>
Membership	4,632.50		
Daily Attendance	4,450.62		
Member Sales	647.00		
Public Fundraising	2,539.60		
Grants and Donations	6,321.80	11,600.00	
Legacies	-	-	
Other Charitable Activities	1,475.70		
Bank Interest	480.76		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>20,547.98</u></b>	<b><u>11,600.00</u></b>	<b><u>32,147.98</u></b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Unreserved Funds</b>	<b>Reserved Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
Gas	510.09		
Electric	1,014.71		
Water	337.79		
Broadband	315.64		
Phone	93.48		
Rent		6,000.00	
Rates	204.60		
Insurance	576.15		
Waste Collection	1,116.00		
Card Commission Payments	79.61		
Other Trade Invoices	229.60		
Fundraising administration		990.00	
General Office Costs	377.95		
Machine Room			
Tools	180.43	432.00	
Consumables	687.33		
Other		2,314.98	
Property	995.05		
Mess Room	75.18		
Member Events	688.00		
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>7,481.61</u></b>	<b><u>9,736.98</u></b>	<b><u>17,218.59</u></b>
<b>2024 Operating Surplus:</b>	<b>13,066.37</b>	<b>1,863.02</b>	<b>14,929.39</b>
<b>Funds Carried Forward to 2025</b>	<b>17,944.66</b>	<b>44,838.54</b>	<b>62,783.20</b>

I confirm that I have provided an independent review of these accounts for the Silvers' Workshop, and believe them to be a true and accurate representation.

Signed:

This completes The Silvers' Workshop, Annual Charities Commission Report for 2024, on this day

Signed

Barry Fowler  
Chairman.

**THE SILVERS' WORKSHOP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159283

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# Accounts

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# **The Silvers' Workshop**

Charity Registration No. 1159283

# Annual Report to the Charities Commission

# 2023

Authors - Stuart Freebody – Treasurer  
Kevin Slade - Secretary

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## **General Statement.**

This is our ninth annual report and in general things are starting to steadily improve since the heady days of the Covid Pandemic.

The start of the year brought us concerns about our duration within our present workshop, as we had been notified that our landlords had applied for Planning Consent to redevelop the plot, which months later saw the Local Authority reject the application. However, this last November, further notification was received that our landlord has appealed this decision to The Secretary of State and an outcome is due in the New Year.

Membership has risen strongly in the latter part of the year, and we are now back to pre-pandemic numbers with the possibility of opening five days a week in the New Year, rather than the four days we currently do.

The Silvers' Workshop draws members from the wider Reading Area and is a member of the UK Men's Shed Association, with over nine hundred member sheds throughout the British Isles.

Our aim is to provide a safe space for men to socialise, connect, converse and create, and by doing so help reduce loneliness and isolation which affects many older men.

## **Governance and Management.**

We currently have ten Trustees who sit at least four times a year to review policy, finance and governance.

All meetings are fully recorded and the Minutes, once approved, are posted on the Members Noticeboard for all to scrutinise and comment upon accordingly. This allows for openness and full transparency.

Our Management Team consists of thirteen members, which includes eight Trustees. This team manages the workshop on a day-to-day basis, implementing the policies and budgets set out and approved by the Trustees. Prior to Covid we had four sub teams which had responsibility for Health & Safety, Finance, Property and Social and would report into the Management Team each month with their specific recommendations.

These teams have yet to be fully reformed since the pandemic and the overall responsibility for their various rolls has currently been undertaken by the main Management Team under the control of the Chair.

The Management Team meet monthly, except for August and work to an agreed agenda. All meetings are fully recorded and copies of the minutes, once approved are posted on the members noticeboard for all to read and comment upon, again, promoting openness and transparency.

All Trustees and Team Members give their time freely and no remuneration or expenses have been paid during this last year, other than expenses duly incurred whilst undertaking official workshop business.

No Trustee receives any benefit which is not available to the wider membership.

## **Membership.**

Membership remains open to men who meet our objectives and can demonstrate their general mobility.

Our membership is currently 70 with more expected to join in the New Year.

## **External Links.**

We continue to work closely with both Reading Voluntary Action who offer us free advice and training and U.K. Men's Shed Association which gives us access to all Men's Sheds in the UK.

Both the local community and local businesses are also very willing to help us to promote the Workshop and have assisted us greatly in the last 12 months.

Our thanks to, in particular, to Laithwaite Wines and ASDA Tilehurst for their continued support.

## **About this last year.**

This year has been about consolidation and rebuilding members confidence to return to the Workshop. We held a family picnic at the local National Trust property, Basildon House, in July, which was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

However, a lot of time has been spent looking for a new home, producing reports and raising funds through attending car boot sales and holding open days, such as the recent "Silver Sunday", held Nationally on 1<sup>st</sup> October, to fund such a move.

As well as allowing us to sell some of our member merchandise to raise funds, opening the Workshop allowed members of the local community to come in and meet with members and to hear about the benefits that they have gained from attending the Workshop. Not surprisingly, we also attracted a number of new members from the event.

Every Thursday the past Chair holds a Zoom chat for members unable to attend the workshop and who wish to catch up on what's happening.

For the fifth time in six years, we had a Christmas Stall in Reading town centre and sold a lot of craft merchandise made by the members. Money raised through this endeavour helps off-set the running costs of the workshop. We also opened the Workshop on "Silver Sunday", which allowed members of the local community to come in and meet with members, and for the members to sell some of our Christmas and other merchandise, and to raise funds for the Workshop. Not surprisingly, we attracted a number of new members from the event.

## **Projects.**

Any tangible projects have been placed on hold this past year whilst we continue to search for a new home for our workshop. As previously stated, this is our first priority and arguably the most challenging project we have yet undertaken.

Property in Reading is unaffordable to a charity of our size, and due to the general economic challenges facing us all, money along with goodwill is in short supply.

### **Men's Health & Well-Being.**

In recent research undertaken on behalf of UK Men's Shed Association, to evaluate the value and impact men's sheds had on members, it was found that Sheds were making a significant contribution to the improvement of health and well-being of all members generally.

This is true of The Silvers' Workshop where many friendships and skills have been made and learnt over the past nine years.

### **The Future.**

This remains fluid as we are unable, at present, to objectively plan and set dates for events or long-term projects until such times as the outcome of the landlord's planning appeal has been made public and what he then intends doing with the property and when.

### **Financial Report and Balance Sheet.**

At first glance, the Workshop's finances appear healthy, but despite a number of sales opportunities in the last quarter, excluding the welcome grant received from the National Lottery Communities Fund at the end of the year, our income, including bank interest only exceeded our expenditure by just over £2,700.

Our decision to increase our membership fee to £70 per annum at our AGM did a little to offset the increase in energy prices, and we are fortunate that our landlord has committed to maintain our rent for the Workshop at £6,000 per annum. Even so, with an uncertain future ahead of us in terms of our accommodation, it would have been good to have created a bit more of a buffer to add to our investment account during the year.

The year also saw a significant increase in our use of card payments for public sales and for members paying daily subscriptions and donations for materials. Through the course of the year we took over £4,000 in card payments, four times the amount taken the previous year, for a total commission of £69.06. The significant gains in terms of the reduction of cash handling and banking when nearly all of our local bank branches have closed are easily balanced by this small amount of commission, especially in view of the loss made over Christmas when we accepted a (very good) counterfeit £50 note.

The successful bid for the National Lottery Grant of £9908, which was received at the end of December, was based on Sustaining the Workshop. £6000 of the grant is to cover our rent for 2024; the remainder is designed to allow us to become self-sufficient for our Personal Appliance Testing through training and purchase of testing equipment, and to pay for administrative support for further grant applications which we intend to submit during 2024.

## The Silvers' Workshop - Draft Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Current Liabilities:</b>	
Cash in Bank	£4,659.59	Invoices Payable	£990.00
Cash in Building Account	£42,970.00	Members Expenses (claimed but unpaid)	£0.00
Cash in Paypal Account	£302.16	Rent	£0.00
Uncleared Funds		Outstanding Electricity	£0.00
Cash Held	£228.25	Outstanding Gas	£0.00
Petty Cash/Float	£50.00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>£48,210.00</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£990.00</b>
 <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		 <b>WORKSHOP EQUITY</b>	
Land	£0.00	Grand total Assets	£51,721.00
Buildings & Furniture	£160.00	Less total liability	£990.00
Tools	£2,145.00		
Stock	£890.00		
Materials	£280.00		
Consumables	£36.00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>£3,511.00</b>	<b>WORKSHOP EQUITY</b>	<b>£50,731.00</b>
	<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>£51,721.00</b>	<b>WORKSHOP EQUITY</b>	<b>£50,731.00</b>
		Last Year:	£38,052.20

This completes The Silvers' Workshop, Annual Charities Commission Report for 2023, on this day 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Signed

Barry Fowler  
Chairman.

**THE SILVERS' WORKSHOP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159283

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# Accounts

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# **The Silvers' Workshop**

Charity Registration No. 1159283

# Annual Report to the Charities Commission

# 2022

Authors - Dave Catton – Treasurer  
Kevin Slade - Secretary

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## **General Statement.**

This is the eighth annual report and, in general, the past year has been the toughest to date. Our long-term objectives have been put on the back burner whilst we rebuild the membership following the two years of Coronavirus. Whilst we lost no member directly to Covid, a lot of our members, due to their age and health issues, lost confidence in attending clubs such as ours due mainly to the fear of contracting the virus albeit most have had all their vaccinations. The last year has seen a very slow return to the numbers attending each session and it is hoped this will be increased in the coming twelve months.

To re-cap, The Silvers' Workshop is affiliated to the U.K. Men's Shed Association which has now established over 500 sheds in the United Kingdom.

The Silvers' Workshop aims to provide a safe space for men to connect, converse and create, in the process of reducing loneliness and isolation, whilst socialising and having fun.

## **Governance and Management.**

The Silvers' Workshop has nine Trustees. They sit a minimum of four times a year and the meetings are held at the Workshop and/or via Zoom Conferencing.

These meetings are fully recorded and the minutes, once approved, are placed on the general noticeboard for all members to read and comment upon.

This allows for openness and transparency and encourages the membership to ask relevant questions of the Trustees.

Our Management Team and Sub Teams are constituted accordingly,

**Management Team :-** 12 members including the nine Trustees.

The four sub-teams have been suspended for an indefinite period and their duties are being undertaken by the Main Management Team under the direction of The Chairman.

The Management Team meet monthly, except for August and work to an agreed agenda. All meetings are fully recorded and copies of the minutes, once approved a copy is pinned to the general noticeboard for all members to read and comment upon, again, promoting openness and transparency.

All Trustees and Team Members give their time freely and no remuneration or expenses have been paid during this last year, other than expenses duly incurred whilst undertaking official workshop business.

No Trustee or Management Team Member receives any benefit which is not available to the wider membership.

## **Membership.**

Membership remains open to men who meet our objectives and can demonstrate their general mobility.

Our membership currently stands at 60, but due to the issues mentioned in the opening statement those figures are fluid as members re-join and new individuals attend to see what we do and how our Workshop could improve their own well-being.

## **External Links.**

We continue to work closely with both Reading Voluntary Action who offer us free advice and training and U.K. Men's Shed Association which gives us access to all Men's Sheds in the UK.

Our support and assistance to a local SEN school remains suspended and will do so until the new Head permits us to return. In the mean-time we are working with several department heads, via E mail to focus on ideas for when we return.

We are actively overhauling bicycles for New Meaning, a school developed to cater for the older child that cannot function within main school education. The bicycles we donate allow the children to attend this school without the added burden of their parents having to find money for bus fares.

Again, we extend our thanks to Laithwaite Wine Co and ASDA Tilehurst for their continued help and assistance.

## **About this last year.**

No external trips or visits were planned for this year, it was about regrouping and finding our feet and mojo again after the awful previous two years. It has been about rebuilding confidences and supporting each other whilst we re-build this very successful Men's Shed.

We attended a fete in the Summer, we returned to the High Street this Christmas and a Pop-Up Shop in a large local office building where we sold merchandise made in the workshop by the members. Attending these events, albeit in a smaller way than pre-pandemic years, allowed us to show the general public that we were open for business and making a small financial return to meet our not so small outgoings.

This year saw our bid for a new workshop in the Reading area rejected by the local Authority, a planning application by our landlord on our current site refused by the local Authority and finally, just a few weeks ago, notification that our landlord has again lodged a planning application to redevelop our current workshop into flats. It will be a worrying start to the New Year.

## **The Project.**

This coming year will be about searching the Reading Area for affordable properties and seeking ways to finance the Capital outlay along with the relocation and running costs of such a move.

## **Men's Health & Wellbeing.**

Being open now for four sessions a week has bought a more optimistic outlook to the workshop and membership attendance is begin, albeit slowly, to return to pre-pandemic numbers. Members are reporting they feel better for returning which is most encouraging.

## **The Future.**

This remains fluid as we are unable, at present, to objectively plan and set dates for events or long-term projects until we can resolve the issue of new premises.

## **Financial Report and Balance Sheet.**

Financial Report and Balance Sheet. The reduced opening and slight decline in membership had a detrimental effect on the Workshop's finances for 2022. Our total income was £15,736.46 and our expenditure for the year was £13,641.17, so it would appear at first sight that we ended the year with a 'profit' of £2,095.28. However, the figures are distorted by the fact that we were fortunate to receive a Grant from Reading Borough for £4,000 last March. Without this we would be showing a 'loss' of Just under £1,900.

Our other fund-raising activities last year raised approximately £2,500 and of these, Broad Street and Laithwaites were again particularly successful and on their own made up approximately half of our takings.

We continue to use the Metro Bank as our Savings account, which now stands at £28712.72, together, with an additional £121.69 held in the Skipton Building Society. We do receive interest on our savings account and this has risen significantly in the last couple of months, for example at the start of last year in January, it was £1.22 per month, and this had risen to £10.89 for December 2022. We use continue to use our Lloyds account for day-to-day banking, and on 31st December 1022 the account stood at £4,815.76 in credit.

All the Clubs financial transactions are recorded on a single master monthly spreadsheet and this is used to produce monthly, end of year and any ad hoc reports. Records in this format now date back to 2019.

It is anticipated that during 2023 the membership will continue to increase, and that at some stage we can return to full five day opening. This hopefully will improve our overall finances.



## The Silver's Workshop

### BALANCE SHEET as at 31/12/22

#### ASSETS

##### Current Assets

Cash in Bank	£4,815.78
Cash in Savings Account	£121.69
Cash in Building Account	£28,712.72
Cash in Paypal Account	£302.16
Cash Held	£109.95
Petty Cash Paid	£218.03
Accounts Receivable	£0.00
Prepaid Insurances	£0.00

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS** £34,280.33

##### FIXED ASSETS

Land	£0.00
Buildings & Furniture	£160.00
Tools	£2,245.00
Stock	£1,490.00
Materials	£280.00
Consumables	£15.00

**TOTAL FIXED ASSETS** £4,190.00

#### LIABILITIES

##### Current Liabilities:

Invoices Payable	£0.00	(Unpaid invoices not to hand)
Wages Payable	£0.00	
Members Expenses	£0.00	(Expenses submitted but not paid)
Rent/Mortgage	£0.00	
Outstanding Electricity	£0.00	(Invoice received but not yet Paid by DD)
Outstanding Gas	£0.00	(Invoice received but not yet Paid by DD)
Tax	£0.00	
Overdrafts	£0.00	
Customer Deposits	£0.00	
Petty Cash paid	£218.03	(Payments made from cash in hand)

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** £218.03

##### WORKSHOP EQUITY

Grand total Assets	£38,470.33
Less total liability	£218.03

**WORKSHOP EQUITY** £38,252.30

This completes The Silvers' Workshop, Annual Charities Commission Report for 2022, on this day 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tony Smith-Crallan  
Chairman.

**THE SILVERS' WORKSHOP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1159283

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# Accounts

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# **The Silvers' Workshop**

Charity Registration No. 1159283

# Annual Report to the Charities Commission

# 2021

Authors - Dave Catton - Treasurer  
Kevin Slade - Secretary

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## Financial Report & Balance Sheet

### Page 3

This is the seventh annual report, in which we describe what we have achieved this last year and to report on our long-term objectives.

To re-cap, The Silvers' Workshop is affiliated to the U.K. Men's Shed Association which has now established over 500 sheds in the United Kingdom.

The Silvers' Workshop aims to provide a safe space for men to connect, converse and create, in the process of reducing loneliness and isolation, whilst socialising and having fun.

### **Coronavirus.**

We re-opened the workshop to members on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July, reducing the number of sessions per week to three and of shorter duration. The sessions were strictly controlled by a Duty Manager and managed in line with our Covid Safety Plan, a copy of which was sent by post to all members. Members wishing to attend a session had to book one of the limited slots available, and could only attend once a week.

These restrictions were lifted in September but we are still only opening for three sessions a week.

### **Governance and Management.**

The Silvers' Workshop has six Trustees but we are actively looking for several more to join in an attempt to broaden the expertise of the board. They sit at least four times a year but in the past 18 months meetings have been jointly held with the Management Team, primarily via Zoom.. These meetings are fully recorded and the minutes, once approved, are placed on the general noticeboard for all members to read and comment upon.

This allows for openness and transparency.

Our Management Team and Sub Teams are constituted accordingly,

- Management Team :-** 10 members including six Trustees.
- Finance Team :-** 3 members including Finance Chair and Secretary
- Health & Safety Team :-** 4 members including one Trustees.
- Property Team :-** 6 members including two Trustees.
- Social Team :-** 4 members including one Trustee.

The Management Team meet monthly, except for August and work to an agreed agenda. All meetings are fully recorded and copies of the minutes, once approved a copy is pinned to the general noticeboard for all members to read and comment upon, again, promoting openness and transparency. These minutes will also include either written or verbal reports from each of the sub-teams.

All Trustees and Team Members give their time freely and no remuneration or expenses have been paid during this last year, other than expenses duly incurred whilst undertaking official workshop business.

No Trustee receives any benefit which is not available to the wider membership.

## **Membership.**

Membership remains open to men who meet our objectives and can demonstrate their general mobility.

Our membership remains around 65 men, but there has been a lot of interest since lockdown was lifted and we hope to see numbers rise in the New Year.

## **External Links.**

We continue to work closely with both Reading Voluntary Action who offer us free advice and training and U.K. Men's Shed Association which gives us access to all Men's Sheds in the UK.

Our support and assistance to a local SEN school has been suspended and will remain so until Covid is under control and the Head permits us to return. In the mean-time we are working with several department heads, via E mail to focus on ideas for when we return.

Again, we extend our thanks to Laithwaite Wine Co: ISG Construction and ASDA Tilehurst for their valued help and assistance throughout the pandemic and for keeping in touch via E mail and telephone.

## **About this last year.**

Every event planned for this year had to be cancelled but during the short period of time between “Lockdowns” small groups of members (no more than six) would meet at the local promenade by the Thames every Wednesday for a picnic lunch. This hour or so gave time for socialising and to find out if any member was struggling with any mental or medical health issue and needed assistance. Twice a week, Tuesday’s and Thursdays at 10.00am the Chairman held a Zoom chat for any member who wished to log in and enjoy a catchup for an hour or so.

## **The Project.**

During the summer period the Management Team spent a lot of time drafting and re-drafting a bid document for a property the local authority is looking to dispose of.

The terms of the disposal are based on a short-or long-term lease and is open to bids from the private as well as the third-party sector. We were able to answer all questions set out in the bid document and submitted a comprehensive and well-constructed document on the due date in September.

At the point of submitting this report a decision from the L.A. has still not been made on the successful bidder.

## **Men’s Health & Wellbeing.**

By continuing the bi-weekly Zoom chats and our limit open sessions held each week in the workshop, we are able to monitor the wellbeing and general mood of a majority of our members. Those members that have not been heard from for a while are contacted by members from the Management Team.

## **The Future.**


This remains fluid as we are unable, at present, to objectively plan and set dates for events or long-term projects.

## **Financial Report and Balance Sheet.**

The downward spiral continues, however a rent payment of £1,500 fell due on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Outstanding payments/invoices – aware of potential van hire, are there any others?

Charity Commission Report – As we are way below the £25K threshold for a detailed financial report, I believe the financial element of the CC report is just to report total income and expenditure for the 2021, and these are Income £11739.10 and expenditure of £14,337.93. These figures would have been substantially lower if the Direct Wines ‘donation’ was ignored. A Monthly Cash Flow Report for 2021 is attached, but as detailed report is not required by CC, I would suggest only sharing this report with members or at AGM. Lots of zeroes and red ink on this report for 2021. Insurances and rent is included in the Regular Utility Payments.

 <b>The Silver's Workshop</b>			
<b>BALANCE SHEET as at 09/01/2022</b>			
<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Current Liabilities:</b>	
Cash in Bank	£2,285.50	Invoices Payable	£125.00 (Unpaid in
Cash in Savings Account	£121.36	Wages Payable	£0.00
Cash in Building Account	£28,672.85	Members Expenses	£0.00 (Expenses
Cash in Paypal Account	£569.46	Rent/Mortgage	£0.00
Cash Held	£1,038.15	Outstanding Electricity	£0.00 (Invoice rec
Petty Cash Paid	£0.00	Outstanding Gas	£0.00 (Invoice rec
Accounts Receivable	£0.00	Tax	£0.00
Prepaid Insurances	£0.00	Overdrafts	£0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>£32,687.32</b>	Customer Deposits	£0.00
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		Petty Cash paid	£0.00 (P ayments
Land	£0.00	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£125.00</b>
Buildings & Furniture	£160.00	<b>WORKSHOP EQUITY</b>	
Tools	£2,245.00	Grand total Assets	£36,877.32
Stock	£1,490.00	Less total liability	£125.00
Materials	£280.00	<b>WORKSHOP EQUITY</b>	<b>£36,752.32</b>
Consumables	£15.00	<b>Previous Month</b>	<b>£36,769.47</b> (30/11/21)
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>£4,190.00</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>£36,877.32</b>		

This completes The Silvers' Workshop, Annual Charities Commission Report

for 2021, on this day 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Signed

Tony Smith-Crallan  
Chairman.