

Men In Sheds Bedford (Charity Commission: 1174339)

Annual Report 1st December 2021 – 30th November 2022

This year we had to open a new bank account with the CAF bank. Barclays (who we have had an account with since we formed in 2012) has been unable to resolve the issues around our treasurer dying, and changes in their policy which require us, as a registered charity, to have a different type of bank account. After eighteen months of stalemate with Barclays, we opened an account with the CAF bank, and we have now transferred all our business to this new bank account, and we are in the process of closing the Barclay account.

The new account is accessible by four of the trustees for oversight, and being an online account, can be managed far more efficiently than the Barclays account, which still required checks to be issued rather than online bank transfers. Currently we have two cards for payment of goods, and bank transfers that require two of the trustees to authorise payments. We had to stop our 1-2-1 sessions as we were not covering off our safeguarding issues (after advice from several agencies, including our umbrella organisation UKMSA). We hope to arrange a partnership with another charity that can provide fully trained dementia staff, but currently we have not been able to set up anything.

We have successfully obtained the use of three rooms in the main building in the Raleigh Centre from Bedford Council. One small room is used for meetings and activities such as teaching the game of bridge, weaving, and presentations on a large screen TV. A second small room is used for IT and electronics and contains several computers and Wi-Fi. Finally, the large area is configured as a multi-use space where we have run the AGM meeting (with thirty plus people), a Christmas party for members, and a member's opening pizza party. It is a large indoor space that has allowed space for activities such as changing a Gazebo into a Santa's Grotto for Kempston Town Council's Christmas light switch on, to rotatory washing line re-threading, and building a large Trug for a local community centre. Along with more mundane uses such as laying out a model railway set up, and painting projects.

Refurbishing these three rooms from neglected storerooms has taken a huge effort from the members, both in fund-raising to pay for materials, and physical effort decorating, fitting out, and repairing the areas. We have paid for new flooring, and for two walls to be plastered from grants raised to make the rooms habitual. We have extended the Wi-Fi to the area, from the other workshop building, and set up the IT room, with working computers, tables, and a printer. We have recently obtained a grant for a high-performance PC to enable Photography, CNC, and 3D printing activities, along with associated software.

We have been running learning bridge sessions (mini bridge) on a Monday afternoon for several months, which has been beneficial in helping get members with a range of disabilities socialising with each other. As well as undertaking an activity which has been shown to have a range of benefits again mental decline (such as Alzheimer's).

We have run an extensive survey of members and are in the process of setting up several special interest sessions such as Electronics, Photography, model making, 3D printing to take advantage of the new craft area.

The final phase of refurbishing the new Craft area is the toilet, and creating a section for tea, coffee, and light refreshments. We have been very successful in raising funds for this work; however, we have so far been unable to get a local building firm to undertake the work. Currently we are in discussion with the council surveyors over our proposals, along with searching for a suitable building firm.

The main workshop (Annex) has a new table saw and has been re-jigged to take a new ventilation unit, as well as some electrical work to provide emergency cut outs. The workshop has also been rearranged to create space for a new CNC unit.

We have undertaken a community project in the Caudwell Centre of painting and decorating. Several members have spent a considerable amount of time working on this. A charity offering IT and ESL language requested help with this project, and we have been pleased to help. We recently helped the Bedford Women's Centre, who are next door, by removing a huge redundant cupboard and countertops, saving them employing a contractor at great expense. Not only did we do the work

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for them free of charge, but we also saved the wood from landfill, and we were able to re-utilise the units, with some adjustments, to create a project storage unit in our craft area.

We were very honoured to have been supported by Joe Green, a post-graduate student at the University of Bedford, who raised a staggering £2101.95 for us by running four miles, every four hours for forty-eight hours.

We were also very touched that the pupils from Bedford School raised £400.76 for us through personal fundraising activities.

Cllr Stephen Conway B.Sc (hons)
Chair of Trustees

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Financial Report.

	Income	Expenditure	Difference
Cash	918.69	824.43	
Bank	4888.35	6682.27	
Total	5807.04	7506.7	1699.33
	Funds at start of year	Funds at end of year	Difference
Cash	176.56	5.82	
Bank	12691.21	11162.62	
Total	12867.77	11168.44	-1699.33
Shed expenditure £1699.33 more than income. Note: the shed is also holding a further £78.42 in a Paypal account to facilitate the sale of surplus donated tools			

Large item expenditure

Table saw for Shed including additional blade	£1438.39
Extraction system for Shed (not included in figures)	£1310.00
Plastering in Craft Centre	£400.00
Flooring in Craft centre	£2502.00

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	balance at start of year	donations during year	expenditure during year	balance at end of year	Comments
MIS craft centre reserve	3000.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00	
Connolly Foundation Grant	3000.00	0.00	1134.49	1865.51	
Bedford Municipal Charity	2418.00		2418.00	0.00	Shed flooring cost £2502.00, balance from Connolly Foundation Grant
Joe Green Fundraising	0.00	2101.95		2101.95	
Shed tool sales	187.00		0.00	410.00	
				7377.46	Craft centre available funds
Councillor ward grants from earlier years		1243.00	1243.00	0.00	Table saw and additional blade cost £1438.39, balance from Shed funds
Shed Reserve	1800.00	0.00	0.00	1800.00	

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Income during 2022 and projections for 2023

Cost centre	Amount during 2022	Projection for 2023	comments
Donations	2703.77	500.00 Does not include any grant income yet to be applied for	Including donations from J Green, £2101.95, and Bedford School £400.76
Material sales	48.00	100.00	
Asset sales	410.00	500	Tool sales
Joining fee	90.00	100	10 new members during 2023
Membership	2351.00	3000	60 members for 2023
1-2-1	55.00	0	A short-term trial of supporting individuals who required support and supervision—now ceased due to Safeguarding issues.
Admin	0.87	20.00	Cafbank interest
total	5658.61	4220.00	

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Expenditure during 2022 and projections for 2023

Cost centre	Amount during 2022	Projection for 2023	Comments on 2022 data
Admin	847.70	1200	It services, insurance and stationary
Refreshments	203.46	400	Tea, coffee etc Hosted event for craft centre open event
Materials	87.95	150	Cleaning materials etc
Assets	2760.02	4000.00 Including IT related expenditure for the Craft Centre	Table saw and extraction system
Craft centre renovation	3552.58	10,000 Toilet and kitchen in craft centre	Floor (£2502)/ plastering (£400)/ other renovation materials
misc	22.94	50.00	Welfare Funding
total	6153.02	10,900	

Note: the Craft centre expenditure proposals will be dependent on gaining sufficient grant income during the year,

Tony Mulhall

Trustee Treasurer