

## **The Henfield Shed**

### **Trustees Annual Report to Members for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2023**

As each year goes by it becomes increasingly evident that the Henfield Shed is performing a useful, much needed and important role in our local community. The year ending December 2023 is no different. The members survey we conducted during the year once again provided us with evidence that the activities of The Shed are valued and appreciated by you, our members. We also know from the continual stream of projects we are given by the community (and the regular offerings of biscuits or cakes brought in) that the work we do is of value and appreciated by members of the community.

Our experiment to open on Thursday mornings proved not to be too popular, so the Trustees decided after six months of trial to close on Thursdays, but to open regularly on Saturday mornings, in recognition that there are working members of the public who need the comradeship and friendships which The Shed offers. This has proved to be successful and Saturday morning sessions are now an established part of our offering.

During the year we had 37 members and opened our workshop on 197 occasions, with 1229 members attending these sessions. This compares with opening on 165 occasions in 2022 with 1205 attendees at these sessions. During the year we made 142 items and repaired 79 items for members of the community and community groups in Henfield.

We completed the year with a surplus of £469 (£3353 in 2022) because of licence fees (rental on SD Gallery) of £3204 and higher costs of electricity. Also, there were infrastructure costs in connection with the Tanyard project amounting to £1018 in the year. Overall, our donations from projects increased from £6431 in 2022 to £8123 in 2023, demonstrating the support from the community and the value we add to the village. We ended the year with £53,129 in the bank account compared with £52,660 in 2022.

Our social activities continued with a barbecue for members and their partners, once again held in the field of Tiffany Myatt and her husband, Colin. Our thanks and gratitude for their generosity in allowing us to use their field and other facilities. We also had a Shedders day out at the Tangmere Military Aviation museum and attended the Haven Quiz on three occasions, winning once.

We participated in the Henfield Late night shopping event and were honoured to be selected by the Free Church as the beneficiary of their Christmas Tree fundraising event. Our thanks to everyone there for their generosity.

The Trustees have been constantly conscious of the fact that our tenure at the rear of Southdown Gallery is temporary, and our search for a permanent home has continued. Buoyed by the launch of the Rural England Prosperity Fund early in 2023 (under the terms of which we would be eligible for a substantial grant) and the feedback from a pre-planning advice application, we decided to launch a full application to develop the Tanyard Barn in Henfield as a permanent home.

This involved commissioning an architect to draw up the plans which we put to an open consultation meeting in the village. Feedback from this meeting resulted in changes to our plans which were submitted to Horsham District Council in September 2023.

For a small charity like the Henfield Shed the bureaucracy of the planning system became almost overwhelming. It involved us dealing with four different departments of Horsham District Council (Planning, Economic Development, Facilities, Legal) over such issues as water neutrality, proposals for supply of electricity and other services, planning policies and practices, provision of fire safety and access and pre-applying for grants. In addition, we had to attend multiple meetings with Henfield Parish Council, its Plans Advisory Committee and the Joint Commons Management Committee who are responsible for maintenance of the Tanyard Field.

The planning process also was expensive, involving a considerable cost for putting in an application as well as commissioning topographic surveys, ecological surveys and bat emergence surveys. Our architect, Gavin Sargent provided a professional service on a pro bono basis.

As of the end of the year, the planning process had not yielded a definitive decision from Horsham District Council who should have determined this application before the end of October 2023. All our efforts to overcome the bureaucracy seemed to be of no avail.

During this process, Malcolm Eastwood, former Chairman of Henfield Parish Council, recently elected Councillor representing Henfield on Horsham District Council and keen supporter and mentor of The Henfield Shed passed away. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Carol and his family on their sad loss.

As of July 2024, the decision is still not forthcoming and discussions are now taking place to attempt to recover from Horsham District Council the costs we have incurred as it seems unlikely that they will determine in our favour, despite their earlier encouragement to engage in the planning process.

At the same time the Trustees of the fund which owns Southdown Galleries and its associated buildings have decided to liquidate the fund and we have been required to move out of our current premises. Thanks to our appeal on social media, a generous resident of Small Dole has offered us premises on his land for the next two years and as this report is being written, a huge amount of effort is going on to effect a move to a new home.

As we write this report our thoughts and condolences go to Pete and Jane Gumbrell and their family on the death of Jane's mother. During the year we also lost one of our members, Jim Smith due to a sudden illness. His carpentry skills, help and guidance are missed by all.

The Trustees are thankful for the generous time, effort and expertise of all of our members in all manner of ways in keeping the Henfield Shed alive and active. We look forward to operating from our new premises in the near future.

The Trustees of The Henfield Shed

August 2024

*Na Z. Morales*  
*20/08/24*

## THE HENFIELD SHED AGM 2024

### Treasurer's Report for year ending 31.12.2023

1. Copies of the profit and loss account for the year and balance sheet are attached.
2. The accounts are held on my personal computer and I have my own back up. Neville has the software on his computer. I should be downloading a copy of the accounts each month onto a USB stick for him to hold, to minimise the risk of the accounts being accidentally lost but this has not been happening recently. Security of the accounts is a bit of a concern, but the trustees have printed copies of the previous year's accounts and quarterly accounts in the current year and it should be possible to reconstruct a current year's accounts from the bank statement. Pete Gumbrell does detailed monthly summaries which are on his computer.
3. Notes to the accounts
  - 3.1. The bank balance at year end was £53,045.67. Pete was holding £83.61 in cash making a total of £53,129.28. The reserves were increased to £50,000 during the year, out of which £1108 was spent on planning costs for the Tannery barn leaving a reserve balance of £48,982.
  - 3.2. There have been no grants this year but donations have been healthy and the surplus from normal activities is as shown £576.00. Nothing need be read into the reduction of members fees as the accounts are done on a cash received/spent basis and members often pay in December the previous year.
  - 3.3. Expenses were up mainly due to the expenses for the Tannery barn (some of which are recorded under infrastructure before a separate account was set up) and licence fees of £356 per month paid to Rita.

Anthony Druce, Treasurer



The Henfield Shed  
Profit And Loss Account  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
Income	Christmas Lunch	189	-
	Donation - unreserved	8,123	6,431
	Income - other	51	-
	Members' attendance payment	910	887
	Membership	592	791
	Petty Cash adjustment	404	463
	Petty Cash Float	84	90
	Refund	-	19
	Social Activities	-	102
		<u>10,352</u>	<u>8,783</u>
Expenses	Christmas lunch	(273)	-
	Electricity	(773)	(276)
	Infrastructure	(921)	-
	Insurance	(368)	(758)
	Licence Fees	(3,204)	-
	Office expenses	(155)	(5)
	Other professional fees	(44)	(323)
	Petty cash float adjustment	(90)	(27)
	Petty Cash withdrawal	(600)	(600)
	Project Materials	(1,410)	(1,555)
	Publicity	-	(66)
	Refreshments	(142)	(226)
	Social Activities	(201)	(323)
	Sundry	(14)	(136)
	Tannery Barn	(1,018)	-
	Tools and machinery	(520)	(895)
	Trustees expenses	(42)	(53)
		<u>(9,776)</u>	<u>(5,243)</u>
		576	3,539
Taxation	Tax	<u>(107)</u>	<u>(205)</u>
		(107)	(205)
Net profit		<u>469</u>	<u>3,335</u>

The Henfield Shed  
Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
Bank accounts	Current account	4,147	12,660
	Reserve Account Shed 2	<u>48,982</u>	<u>40,000</u>
		53,129	52,660
Net assets		<u>53,129</u>	<u>52,660</u>
		£	£
Beneficiaries	Income account	52,660	49,325
	Net profit	<u>469</u>	<u>3,335</u>
		53,129	52,660
Total funds		<u>53,129</u>	<u>52,660</u>

31.12.23

Bank Balance	53,045.67
Petty Cash float	<u>83.61</u>
	53,129.28