

Crewe Men in Sheds CIO, No: 1196566

Unit 16, Brierley Business Centre, Mirion Street, Crewe CW1 2AZ

Tel: 01270 748645 Email: crewemeninshedscio2022@gmail.com

Facebook: Crewe Men in Sheds/Crewe Shedders

The first year as Crewe Men in Sheds CIO was a big learning curve for us. AGE UK had run the shed for 12 years with funding from firstly the lottery and when this finished JTI took over the funding.

AGE UK informed the Crewe Shed in 2021 that funding would be ending and they had no intention of seeking further funding. They informed the shed members that they had 12 months to find funds to take over the shed. This was to be done by August 2022. If funding was not found then they would have to shut the shed. The people in the shed decided to form a CIO and appoint trustees to do this. The Trustees at the time started to fund raise, but unfortunately had no experience of doing this. They were also under the misunderstanding after being told that JTI (from certain sources) would fund the shed directly instead of through AGE UK. They continued to believe this until one of the Trustees rang JTI directly to ask the question, the reply was that they had no intention of continuing to fund Crewe Men in Sheds as they had agreed with AGE UK to fund a new Green Space project with them. This obviously came as a shock to the new trustees and they still stubbornly continued to believe in JTI coming to the party which of course would never happen.

I joined in February 2022 as a normal shedder and started to make products to sell to make money for the shed. My products that were wooden Tommie's sold so well and made more money than what had been happening before and my experience in sales helped in marketing these.

Simon Farr one of the Trustees started our Facebook page which has certainly helped to promote not only the shed but to sell our products as well.

It became increasingly apparent that some of the Trustees had no idea what to do and were completely out of their depth and one by one they resigned. To this I was asked to become a trustee as I had been active in emailing, telephoning companies seeking funding etc. I not only became a Trustee but the Treasurer as well.

My past as a sales manager and an Operation Manager for a large UK Franchise operation helped in everything, that I set out to do and still do.

As I stated above, we were told that Funding would end at the end of August and unless we could prove we had sufficient funding AGE UK would have no alternative but to close the shed.

This was not going to happen whilst I was there. I spoke to various companies who I had dealt with in the past who gave little amounts of money as donations to us, but the big one that I spent hours and hours on was Bentley Cheshire Community Funding. This would save the shed if I could get it. Unfortunately, the downside was when we would be considered was outside AGE UK'S deadline. I then of course asked AGE UK to extend the deadline for a little longer to see if the funds were awarded to us. They agreed to this as they had some of our money in hand to pay the rent for further months. I was pleased to announce that Bentley had looked kindly on us and awarded us the grant of £14,686.56. When this was announced in the shed the applause and relief of the shedders was unbelievable and well worth the time, I had spent on this.

When we assured AGE UK we had been successful with our funding they agreed to transfer the assets over to us and we could continue. We took the shed over on the 1st October and looked forward to being in charge of our own destination.

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I then had to speak to Cheshire East with regards to the rent etc as they again were unsure as we were an unknown quantity being new to this. In my negotiations with them they not only agreed to carry on with the same rent of £550.00 per month but also to give us two months free rent.

I then went back to AGE UK to ask them to pay us the money back that belonged to the shed they had been holding, at first, they said they would continue to pay the rent until the monies were exhausted to which I declined saying that the money belonged to us and I wanted it transferred into our bank account. They finally agreed to this and transferred £2300.00 to our bank account.

We were awarded a grant of £10,000.00 from our lottery application and in addition to this we received a grant off Crewe Town Council for £1632.00, a donation of £1000.00 was also given to us by the Railway Society that was disbanding which altogether further put the shed in a good financial position.

We still continue to look for further funding / Grants to ensure the future for the shed. During my applications I introduced the need for Ladies to join the shed as they suffer from the same issues as men do. I was told this helped in the way we approached the future and why we were looked on favourably looking at all aspects including EDI. We call the shed Crewe Men in Sheds CIO including Crewe Shedders to accommodate the ladies.

Some funding we applied for would not be looked at or decided until 2023.

To continue the good work and reputation that we are growing from outside the shed we have been out and about doing presentations to companies explaining what the shed is about and what we do. I prepared a PowerPoint presentation that I am happy to forward to you. The case studies in this presentation speaks volumes for what the shed is about.

Now we have a good foundation to work on the shed will only grow from strength to strength.

After these first 12 months we now look forward to continuing to progress the shed and with the membership increasing we look forward to a bright future.

All the present trustees are committed to working together for the benefit of the shed. We all took First Aid Courses, Safeguarding for vulnerable adults and of course DBS checks.

On the downside we also had setbacks like finding out the shed after we took over did not have a valid EIC certificate, the extractors had not been tested for years and did not have a valid LEV certificate which should have been done every 14 months. We made these a priority of course and fortunately after asking for quotes, the cheapest for the electrical testing was £680.00 and the LEV Certificate £200.00. With companies seeing what we were doing, two offered to do these free of charge. We thank them for this.

This was also the same for the Safeguarding and First Aid Courses. We also appointed one of our Trustees as the Fire Marshall for the shed and paid for him to attend a course to obtain a Certificate.

One of our Trustees Simon Farr worked hard contacting local companies and got firstly two large companies to donate large quantities of products one of wood and

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the other nails, screws etc. He also got companies to donate paint, power tools etc to help us.

I approached the local supermarkets to see if they would be kind enough to donate tea, coffee biscuits etc to us. These happily agreed to donate to us, saving us monies and they continue to do so.

We of course had to pay for Insurance, Broadband, landline telephone etc.

We have to continue to make products to sell to help towards paying the rent etc as the subs paid by the members come somewhat short.

We ended our first year with £37633.20 in the bank giving us a good buffer to continue. This was due to donations, funding, grants, selling products. Thanks to this our income far outweighed our expenditure.

The long-term vision for us is to keep Crewe Men in Sheds growing from strength to strength increasing our membership and looking after the need of them. This is of course people suffering from Mental Health issues, Physical disabilities, anxiety problems, retired etc or just people who need a place to go to. We would not turn anyone away if they need our help

We continue to do work in the community donating items like bird boxes, bird tables, planters etc.

Our thoughts now are for the coming year to continue where we are at the present but understanding we will have to spend money to make the shed a better and safer place for our members. This includes looking at replacing machinery, power tools etc.

We are now in charge of our own destination and look forward to the next twelve months to start with, then the years after.

I now attach our Year end accounts together with our PowerPoint Presentation which is the present updated one.

Kind Regards

Graham Walker

Trustee / Treasurer

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MEN IN SHEDS INCOME FROM 31/03/2022 - 31/03/2023										
DATE	SUBS	GRANTS	DONATIONS	MISC	SALES					
BALANCE B/F									1000	
Apr-22										
SALES/DONATIONS			500					500		
BUCKET COLLECTION			196					196		
SALES/DONATIONS					414			414		
								0		
								0		
								0		
								0		
								0		
TOTAL	0	0	696	0	414	0	0	1110	1110	2110
EXPENDITURE	INSURANCE	OTHER								
TO BALANCE WITH BANK		110								
TOTAL	0	110	0	0	0	0		110	2000	2000

[illegible]

MEN IN SHEDS INCOME FROM 31/03/2022 TO 31/03/2023										
DATE	SUBS	GRANTS	DONATIONS	MISC	SALES					
BALANCE B/F									3070.44	
Jun-22										
QUEENS PARK					600			600		
BENCH					150			150		
ARMS FORCES DAY					834			834		
SALES					100			100		
								0		
								0		
								0		
								0		
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1684	0	0	1684	1684	4754.44
EXPENDITURE	INSURANCE	OTHER								
CASH PURCHASE		50						50		
OF SUM UP MACHINE								0		
CASH PURCHASE								0		
OF WOOD		50						50		
								0		
								0		
								0		
								0		
TOTAL	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	4654.44

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MEN IN SHEDS INCOME FROM 31/03/2022 TO 31/03/2023										
DATE	SUBS	GRANTS	DONATION	MISC	SALES					
Jan-22										
OPENING BALANCE										37495
DIRECT DEBITS	56							56		
CASH PAYMENTS	176							176		
SALES					20			20		
DONATION			179					179		
SUM UP SALES					26.55			26.55		
								0		
								0		
								0		
TOTAL	232	0	179	0	46.55			457.55	457.55	37952.55
EXPENDITURE	INSURANCE	PURCHASE	MISC	TOOLS	STAT/ARY	TELEPHONE				
ZURICH	48.88							48.88		
TOOLSTATATION				2.54				2.54		
SCREWFIX				2.3				2.3		
WORKS					10			10		
WILKO			4.5					4.5		
LUMBERJACK				196.18				196.18		
WATER HEATER 05			185.89					185.89		
LASERINK					24.95			24.95		
B&Q				30.37				30.37		
PLUSNET						22.99		22.99		
UK MEN IN SHEDS			30					30		
EBAY LAMP			44.16					44.16		
TOTAL	48.88	0	264.55	231.39	34.95	22.99	0	602.76	602.76	37349.79

MEN IN SHEDS INCOME FROM 31/03/2022 TO 31/03/2023										
DATE	SUBS	GRANTS	DONATION	MISC	SALES			TOTAL		
Feb-23										
OPENING BALANCE B/F										37349.79
DIRECT DEBITS	56							56		
CASH PAYMENTS	217.5							217.5		
SALES					218			218		
SUM UP PAYMENTS					812.92			812.92		
SUM UP PAYMENTS					159.28			159.28		
SUM UP PAYMENTS					47.2			47.2		
QUERY-AMAZON				5.62				5.62		
B COOKE					50			50		
								0		
TOTAL	273.5			5.62	1287.4			1566.52	1566.52	38916.31
EXPENDITURE	INSURANCE	PURCHASE	MISC	TELEPHONE	TOOLS	PETROL	RENT	TOTAL		
ZURICH	48.88							48.88		
PLUSNET				22.99				22.99		
QUERY SCREWFIX					19.99			19.99		
TOOLSTATION					22.49			22.49		
L&R ELECTRICS			23.33					23.33		
TOOLSTATION					33.47			33.47		
HOME BARGAINS			7.55					7.55		
TESCO						8.47		8.47		
CHESHIRE EAST							1100	0		
MACHINE MART					26.38			26.38		
TOOLSTATION					38.78			38.78		
LIDEL			7.98					7.98		
TOTAL	48.88		38.86	22.99	141.11	8.47	1100	1360.31	1360.31	37556

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MEN IN SHEDS INCOME FROM 31/03/2022 TO 31/03/2023														
DATE	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
YEAR END														
OPENING BALANCE														
SUBS							266	228.5	60	60	232	273.5	238	1358
GRANTS								24686.56						24686.56
DONATIONS/SALES	1000	696	293			200	1720	200			179			4288
MISC			303.4		200	584	637			4002		5.62		5732.02
SALES		414		1684	217			82		788.86	46.55	1287.4	679.32	5199.13
ST LUKES DONATION			474.04											474.04
														0
														0
														0
TOTAL iNCOME	1000	1110	1070.44	1684	417	784	2623	25197.06	60	4850.86	457.55	1566.52	917.32	41737.75
EXPENDITURE	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	
INSURANCE							48.88	48.88	48.88	48.88	48.88	48.88	48.88	342.16
PURCHASES				100					123.99	125.56			10	359.55
MISCELLANEOUS									170.09		264.55	47.33	137.37	619.34
TELEPHONE/TV										22.99	22.99	22.99	23.46	92.43
TOOLS									106.16		231.39	141.11	70.41	549.07
RENT												1100	550	1650
TO BALANCE BANK		110								216.26				326.26
STATIONERY								102.85	27.94		34.95			165.74
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0	110	0	100	0	0	48.88	151.73	477.06	413.69	602.76	1360.31	840.12	4104.55
YEAR TOTAL	1000	1000	1070.44	1584	417	784	2574.12	25045.33	-417.06	4437.17	-145.21	206.21	77.2	37633.2

Letter to the Charity Commission re Crewe Men in Sheds CIO
Charity No. 1196566

Dear Sirs,

Before I retired, I worked for many years doing Book Keeping and Management Accounts, along with several other clerical jobs, which included handling large amounts of cash, and doing the payroll.

I was the treasury at Hough & District Women's Institute for eight years, and I was asked to become an Auditor for them, which I declined.

I have RSA in Book Keeping and O Level in Accounts, also City and Guilds in computer Studies.

I also do my own accounts on spreadsheets for two properties that I own.

I have checked the Accounts for Crewe Men in Sheds CIO, to the best of my knowledge with the information that was available. The information is on all Spreadsheets and is in date order and balances with the bank statements.

Kind Regards

Cecilia Benoy

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Dated: 6th August 2024