

# TRUSTEES REPORT 2024 - 2025

Registered Charity Number 1202465

## ADDRESS

**Caretakers Bungalow**

**Samuel Ward School**

**Chalkstone Way**

**Haverhill**

**CB9 0LD**

What 3 Words Location [///starter.static.gives](https://www.what3words.com/#!/en/starter.static.gives)

[mens.shed.haverhill@gmail.com](mailto:mens.shed.haverhill@gmail.com)

07938017851

[www.haverhill-shed.org.uk](http://www.haverhill-shed.org.uk)

[Face Book](#)

APRIL 2025



Big Thanks to Cllr David Smith as the outgoing Mayor of Haverhill. Mens Shed Haverhill has been his Chosen Charity of the year (with The Link )

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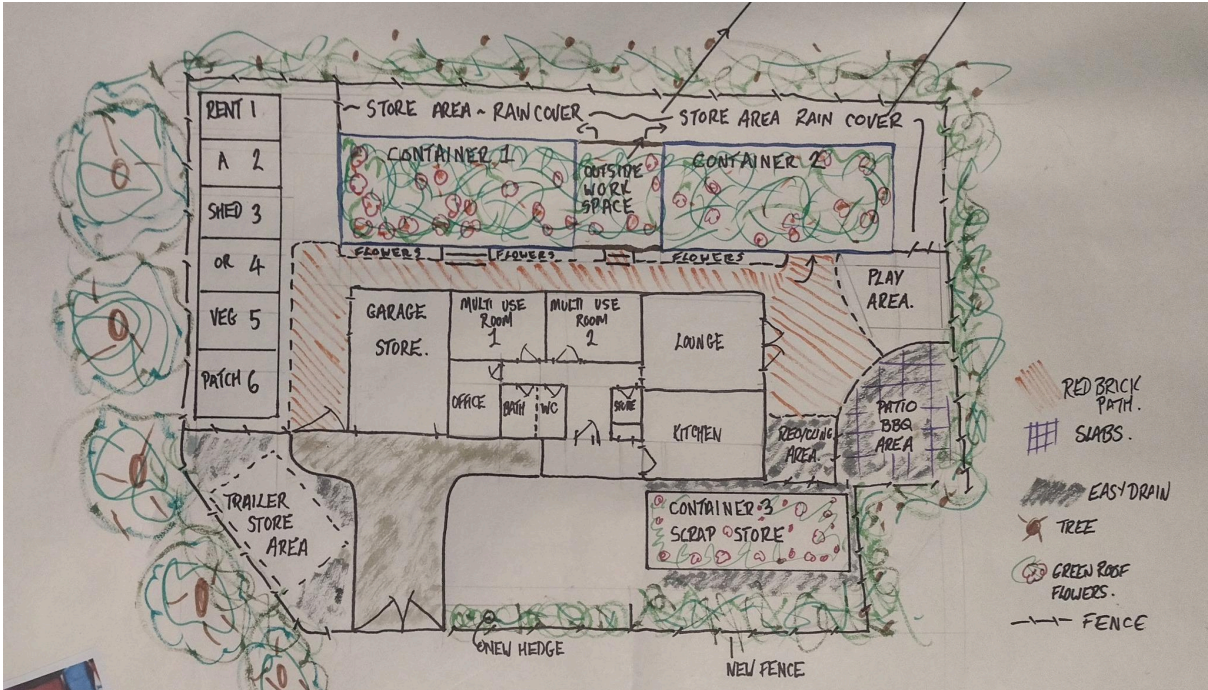


MARCH 2025

Busy day at the Mens Shed Haverhill



The Big Plans for our new shed !



MARCH 2025



Finished Batch for Town Council Swift project.





MARCH 2025

OUTREACH WORK  
3 of our members at  
a wellbeing event  
promoting the  
benefits of our Shed  
at highpoint prison.



We love using what would be  
destined for landfill.  
Wood flooring and carpet tiles  
from [QSF Interiors](#)  
Red brick path made with  
damaged bricks from Red Row  
Development.



FEBRUARY 2025

We met with Tracy Tyson  
Social Value Lead, Wates Group  
(Main Contractor at New Build in Highpoint Prison)  
Excellent conversation and Tracy is looking into what they can offer in hours with  
tradesmen working at the Shed.



## FEB 2025 Green Roof Update



The Bridge roof between containers was completed by "Balloon Dave" Geoff W and Disco Dave helped get the turf. The roof is now covered, seeded (wild flower mixes) over two layers of thermal roof sheeting. Awful time of year to be lugging sodden soil about! But ideal to get this season to bed in. Need to finish all edges. Well done Shedders.

Our lovely new doors.





JANUARY 2025

Thank you

Two weeks ago a member of the Shed collapsed ( he is ok now) passed out, Scary stuff for all. I am so proud of the way all Shed members jumped in and helped And supported R. The ambulance arrived in 8 minutes, he was seen and discharged the same day. Shed Members got his car home, called his wife and checked up on him late into the evening ( he did say can you all stop calling - I'm ok and trying to eat my dinner). We acknowledge that an ambulance can be waited for much longer than this, there is just not enough of them,  
Thanks to All

First cuppa made at the Mens Shed using modern electricity!!! [Mens Shed Haverhill](#) !!



[Mens Shed Haverhill](#) were our guest presenters for the first business networking event of the year last week.

Men's Shed is a global organisation & registered charity, originally set up to help men who were feeling isolated,

The Haverhill Shed is open every Saturday at the caretakers house at [Samuel Ward Academy](#) , but they also hold events throughout



the week, and a drop in session in the town on a Friday.

The group has set up a music band, built bird boxes and toy boats, and learnt how to bake. They also take donations of tools, which they refurbish, and some are sent to projects in Africa.

Membership of the group isn't limited by age or gender - all are welcome!

Their presentation was great for the networking attendees to listen to and they could see the comradery and friendship between the presenters.

Great to have so many new companies and individuals at the event and we look forward to more joining us during the year.

February's networking event is on Wednesday 19th at 9am, with Karen Dennis from The Department of Work & Pensions.

Book your free place here 🖱️

<https://www.epicentrehaverhill.co.uk/.../haverhill.../>



I had the pleasure of meeting one of the founders of the 12th Man this year. I liked them so much I got a T-shirt!

(12th Man is a football term for the supporter - turns up in the cold and rain always faithful winning or losing - always there)

The 12th Man Campaign helps men talk more openly about mental health. It encourages them to be the 12th Man for their families, friends, colleagues and other people in their lives.

<https://12th-man.org.uk/>

Do you know a mate who is struggling this time of year?  
Give him a call—you could even save a life.

DECEMBER 2025



Shedders of the year award was split ( literally) between Geoff and Dave

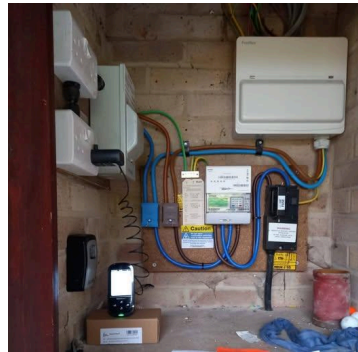






ODDS AND SODS BUSKING IN THE COLD

WE HAVE ELECTRICITY!!!!!!



Here we have a rare example of the Haverhill Shed Men in the wild - waiting patiently for their Pie and Peas -  
Seen at the **Hadleigh Suffolk Shed Fest.**







It's beginning to get a lot like... anyway, another little project completed! There will be more to come for Mens Shed Haverhill stock, now back to my grotto!



Another one from yesterday Mens Shed Haverhill and Rusties.



NOVEMBER 2024

Big Thanks to Cambridge Regional Collage for two VERY heavy Benches and a Pillar drill -

Apparently, we were not good-looking enough for CCTV, so we had to wear balaclavas



## OCTOBER BOYS ON TOUR - Last of the Summer wine??



### Ron's Blog

The Shed has been a ghost town recently, just a few of us oldies not doing much. So where was everyone? It appears that they were at the bungalow, doing formation wheelbarrow dancing and playing pool on an imaginary table!

Whilst they were they did spare some time to get the bungalow ready for all of us to use, the most exciting thing being the delivery of the two site offices which we will use as workshops. I say exciting in Antony's own words, he was like a "six-year-old with a new Tonka toy"

There has been a lot of work put into clearing the site moving slabs and generally starting to get the outside cleared before the winter sets in.

There is some work done inside the building, but I have yet to see what has been done, apart from the imaginary pool table!

I have missed a few sessions recently due to health problems, as a result, I know little of what has been made, repaired, and generally renovated by the few remaining shedders. The time will come soon when we will get up and running.

A longer blog next time, we might have made some sawdust by then, and the members who have worked so hard in the bungalow can have a rest

Since I wrote the above, we had the awful news that there had been a break-in at the bungalow and some of our tools and equipment had been stolen. There was damage to the garage door and some new tools belonging to the shed and some belonging to members were taken.

Apart from my feeble attempts at humour above, the sheer amount of hard work members have put into getting this far with the bungalow should not be underestimated. There have been many manhours put into the bungalow by members, only to see the damage and loss of tools.

It is not all doom and gloom though. We have had many messages of support, along with some practical help from various sources. We will soon have better security and hopefully, the electricity laid on.

It is said that what does not kill you will make you stronger and the reaction when we got the message about the break-in was for everyone to repair the damage and to get on with the job.

The irony is that we now have more support, publicity and offers of help. The people who broke in will be lucky to see a quarter of the retail price of the goods they stole.

Ron Davis

13 October 2024



Cllr Joe Mason

#### Mens Shed Haverhill

This morning I visited and met with Charity Chairman and leader Anthony Cullop (centre) at their new premises at the old caretakers house at Samuel Ward Academy.

It was lovely to meet a number of the Menshed members.

As most people know Menshed was recently burgled and lost some equipment. The discussion focussed on this but also their ongoing challenges regarding security, lack of electricity, the amount of work that still needs to be done to make the site function as they would like. Currently they have no electricity but they are hopeful this will be sorted soon.

It was really endearing to hear how generous people from the community have been and I know that some of what has been lost has been replaced through donations. Thank you to all those who have given support to Menshed. They really are a fantastic charity that does really important work in our community and around the area.



We agreed that Security was a priority and I am working with them on a grant application using some of my county council locality funding. Hopefully we can get this done and installed as soon as possible.

I cannot speak highly enough of this organisation and they need support to get this new home really up and running.



SEPTEMBER 2024

A sad fact is that members pass away, we have our "No longer here - But always near Memorial - a tool owned by the member has their name carved / written on it (front or back) and hung forever alongside other lost members - lets hope it stays empty for a long time.



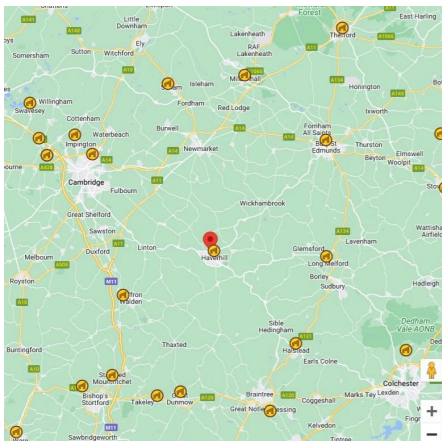
BURGLARY AT [Mens Shed Haverhill](#)

LAST NIGHT THE GARAGE DOOR WAS FORCED OPEN AND OVER £1000 OF TOOLS STOLEN - PICTURES BELOW - WE DIDNT EVEN GET TO USE LATHE / DRILL / TABLE SAW - we are still checking what went missing.

Some of the tools stolen belonged to members - I cant begin to say how upset we all are.

Please no racial slurs or hatred this day has been

bad enough..



**Mens Shed Haverhill -**  
Below is the official register of Sheds, HMS serves a large rural area.



Some of the wonderful work done by member Ron, All wood saved from burning or being turned into hamster bedding. A lifetime of skill, passion and dedication - Ron is one of our Shed teachers, we are setting up Ron's corner in the new workshop so the teaching can continue...



Life is not a drill - Ever thought about joining? We have an Autumn special taking part this Super September Shed Month. Our motto - We are a bunch of friends you haven't met yet. Just come along any Saturday 10- 12 and say Hello £2 Month Membership.

3 Rookwood way at the centre workshops.  
Caretakers Bungalow Samuel Ward School







It has been a great year with many laughs along the way

Current paid membership is 42 As of 17/9/25

Of which we have

10 members who are 80 years or above.

The youngest is 33.

7 members are female

6 are recent widowers (12- 18 months)

2 with Dementia

3 Unable to read

1 Learning Disability

We have an average of 55 points of contact per week, approximately 2500 a year currently.

## OUR VALUE

A member was asked if he could say 15 minutes to help me finish something - he said yes, of course. I haven't any family, I'm just going back to an empty house - The Shed is my family, I feel at home here.

I have spoken to 4 men in the last few months who were in tears, telling me how they miss their wives.

D a female member of "odds and sods," was off work due to depression, anxiety, and lack of confidence (due to an abusive relationship) D has slowly built herself back up by learning to play with the group and regularly sings in front of groups. now sings in front of groups / has travelled to India - and has returned to work -

The Shed aims to be a vehicle/conduit to new experiences and friendships that are based on common interests and locations.

We aim to grow. and be well known as a place of safety and fun. When we started, I thought 20 members was a massive achievement; now we have 40 and are heading to 50 by the end of the financial year.

We have an average of 55 points of contact per week, approximately 2500 a year currently.

Antony Cullup  
Chair of Trustees



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