

**Toome Men's Shed
Chairman's Report
2024-2025**

It gives me great pleasure to present the Chairman's Report. This past year has been steady, productive, and above all, grounded in the core values that make our Men's Shed such an important place for our members and our community.

Our members have engaged in a diverse range of activities such as the manufacture of traditional Irish cottages of varying sizes and designs for outdoor and indoor ornamental use. In addition to this, our laser engraver has become a most productive tool and allows us to produce items not possible before, including decorative objects for the festive seasons of Easter, Halloween and Christmas. We continued to focus on what we do best: providing a friendly, supportive environment where men can gather, share skills, and enjoy good company. Our attendance has remained consistent throughout the year, and it has been encouraging to see both long-standing members and new faces working side by side in the shed. The group met with Draperstown Men's Shed and the Network Shed in Magherafelt to make links and look at possible ways of working together. Contact has also been made with Belleek Men's Shed (visit planned).

We completed several projects, including repairs for local organisations that were well received. Community projects were (a) preparation and manufacture of materials for Alzheimer's Society N.I. (b) construction and installation of wooden garden arch trellis and restoration of garden benches for Three Islands Nursing Home in Toome (c) participation in Easter Monday fair in town (d) construction of large items project for Mr J. Henderson (Antrim & Newtownabbey Council) re: Christmas lights and schools competition (e) working with local community group TIDAL to decorate the town for the switch on of Christmas lights. These jobs not only support those around us but also give our members a sense of purpose and achievement. The workshop has run smoothly thanks to our volunteers who quietly keep things organised and maintained — your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Financially, the shed remains in a sound position. We have managed our resources carefully, and though we are always mindful of rising costs, we have been able to continue offering a low-cost, welcoming space for all members. I want to thank our treasurer and committee for their ongoing diligence and teamwork.

The group also held a number of health talks for men to include "Minding Your Head", "How to look after your physical health", "Health & Safety in the Workplace" and "How to look after your financial health". These moments remind us that the Men's Shed is far more than a workshop; it is a place for connection, conversation, and mutual support.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to all committee members, volunteers, and shed members for your contributions throughout the year. It is your quiet dedication that keeps the shed running and makes it a place we can all be proud of. This is the reason why Toome Men's Shed keeps their doors open.

Looking ahead, we aim to maintain the steady progress of this year, continue welcoming new members, and build on the strong, friendly culture that defines our shed.

Thank you all for your support.

Terry Agnew