

Trustees Report 1/4/24 to 31/3/25

The purposes of the Strangford and District Men's Shed involve education, health, citizen and community development. We participate in community development activity and help our members and the wider public.

To these ends we have spent the last year continuing our involvement with others. We have interacted with other Men's sheds including a 3 way "good relations" course in conjunction with Hillside Men's Shed in Kilkeel and Donaghmore Men's shed. This has involved visits to Dublin and Black Mountain and six other visits to the other sheds with us hosting two reciprocal visits. We have had a historical walk around the Strangford Village, narrated by local "experts". All to the benefit of the wellbeing of our members.

Visits to other sheds (Warrenpoint and Saintfield) and hosting visitors to our shed from these and Killyleagh and Moville shed have been enjoyed by our members as well as "Days out" such as visiting HMS Caroline in conjunction with Saintfield Men's shed. Saintfield have also visited our shed and given helpful advice on setting up. We have been involved with a "Health and Safety course" and an "Adult and Child Safeguarding course" jointly with Saintfield and ourselves, paid for by Groundworks.

We have almost finished our Equipment purchases and have a comprehensive workshop, fully equipped to make wooden items, as well as a 3D printer, a CNC machine and a powerful Laser cutter/engraver (a recent addition funded by a DAERA grant). The workshop has a good lathe and bandsaw as well as a table saw, mitre saw, thicknessing planer and router table. Various power hand tools have allowed us to de-skill wooden craft production, as befits the membership, being predominantly old with arthritic thumbs! Other equipment includes a PC and good quality A3 colour printer to support photography, a bicycle repair station and an Amateur Radio and electronic construction and repair workstation. We will be soon be purchasing a 3D scanner and further sanding equipment to expand our capability and offer ourselves as a centre of excellence that exceeds what most men have in their garage. We undertook five commissions from the public to make a bird table, a coffee table and several park benches. Members have constructed a number of items including wooden clocks, wine racks and toilet roll holders as well as a number of models.


We have exhibited and sold wooden and 3D printed items at the Strangford festival last August and will do so again this August, we will also have a stall at the open day at the Glebe in Kilclief/Strangford where we reside. We have given help to a local primary school – clearing gutters and flower beds and also helped the local residents association – making a notice board. Strangford Residents association have asked for our help with regard to their 40+ flower boxes that need refurbishment and we have six sets of park bench ends that we will be populating with iroko to sell at the open day and festival. Our premises are on the grounds of the Glebe (Harmony Community Trust) and we have given them a lot of help, particularly their seed bed volunteers, cutting wood to help them make raised beds and plant stands. We have installed three birdboxes for them on one of the buildings and are commissioned to make a large number of birdboxes next year for them.

We also made sixty birdboxes for swifts to support the Mourne, Gullion and Strangford Geopark, and also provided them with 4 rodent-proof planter boxes. Our relationship with the Geopark is expected to grow in the coming months, with more opportunities for our members to build things for them.

This has been a good and productive year.



Ian McCrum, Secretary,



Maurice Denvir, Chairman



Vincent Bent, treasurer