

THE HISTORY OF THE PORINGLAND MENS SHED ROCKING HORSE

In August of 2016, Keith came to our Shed (then located in a Blacksmiths Forge in Brooke) and brought a part completed rocking horse with him.

He explained that he had built the horse from scratch, by hand, but the onset of arthritis in his hands had stopped him completing it. 'Would you finish it for me?' he asked. At the time we did not have anyone with the woodworking skills and so I pondered upon what to say, and asked, 'Are you making it for your grandchildren?'. 'No, I want it to go to the East Anglian Children's Hospice'.

After further consideration, we took the horse – wrapped it in sheeting and bound it in rope from the Norfolk Wherry Albion (another story) and put it up in the rafters above our work benches, awaiting a new member to join with the necessary wood working skills.

In July 2017, we decamped from the forge (now for sale and described as 'a former gentlemen's club....') and set up home in an agricultural barn behind The Dove pub on the Bungay Road, just north of Poringland, where once more we hauled the rocking horse up into the rafters.

A few months ago Tim joined our Shed project and when he was settled in and feeling comfortable, he brought in some nifty wooden carvings of animals, which were much admired. 'I wonder?', I thought.....and the answer was 'Yes!'.

It has involved a lot of work, but Tim finished carving the horse and fitting it with saddle and tack and then made the cradle in which it rocks. John painted the horse and fitted the tail and mane – and suddenly we had a rather wonderful rocking horse to find a home for.

A 'phone call to Sally, the manager of the EACH shop on Unthank Road, brought forth a delighted response and the offer was made to realise Keith's wish by putting it up for sale to raise funds for EACH.

Poringland and District Mens Shed wish the purchaser of this rocking horse many happy hours with this grand horse and 'family heirloom' of the future.

Henry Gowman Chairman Poringland and District Mens Shed

www.pdmensshed.org