

Poringland & District Men's Shed AGM Tuesday 5th March @ 10:30 am

The Dove PH - Poringland

Henry Gowman, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed 25 members and guests - Pat & Anne from St. Georges Dementia Group, Aaron & Ben from Kintell and Julie Ringer from SNDC.

Trustees Reports

Steve Dowall, Secretary presented his report followed by Roy Burson, Treasurer and finally Henry Gowman Chairman. These reports are attached.

Re-election of Trustees

All existing trustees were re-elected unanimously. Henry Gowman asked if anyone else wished to be considered as a trustee. Peter Stuart put his name forward Nominated by Tim Ridgley, Seconded by Steve Dowall. Peter was duly elected.

Presentation

Ben & Aaron from Kintell gave an interesting presentation and discussion about their device which helps people living with MCI.

Meeting closed at 11:45

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR AGM 5TH MARCH 2019

THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A VERY BUSY ONE FOR THE SHED AND THIS IS SHAPING UP TO BE JUST AS BUSY.

DURING THE LAST YEAR WE HAVE REINFORCED OUR STANDING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR USEFULNESS TO IT. NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF WE DID NOT WORK EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER AS A TEAM. I DO APPRECIATE THAT AT TIMES, WORKING IN THE CRAMPED CONDITIONS OF THE BARN CAN PROVE FRUSTRATING BUT WITH GOOD HUMOUR WE HAVE OVERCOME ALL DRAWBACKS TO ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT RESULTS.

PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST SATISFYING PROJECTS THAT WAS COMPLETED THIS YEAR WAS THE ROCKING HORSE THAT HAD BEEN UP IN OUR RAFTERS AWAITING FINISHING. WITH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF TIM MAYHEW AND JOHN MALLOT THE HORSE WAS COMPLETED TO A HIGH STANDARD AND SOLD THROUGH THE E.A.C.H CHARITY SHOP FOR £350 WHICH WENT TOWARDS THE BUILDING FUND FOR THE NEW HOSPICE.

ONE OF OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS WAS ALSO FOR E.A.C.H WHEN WE MADE CIRCUS FIGURES AND FITTED OUT A 40' TRAILER AS A FLOAT TO TAKE PART IN THE LORD MAYORS PROCESSION. AS WELL AS INVOLVING NEARLY EVERYBODY, THIS WAS A TASK INVOLVING IMAGINATION, INGENUITY, PERSISTENCE AND PATIENCE. WE ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE AND SMASHED IT OUT OF THE PARK. SOME OF THE CIRCUS FIGURES ARE NOW HAVING A SECOND LIFE AT PORINGLAND PLAY BARN WHICH IS PLEASING.

THE MOST MOVING PROJECT, FOR ME, WAS WHEN WE MADE SILHOUETTES OF 11 WW1 SOLDIERS TO REPRESENT THE 11 MEN OF PORINGLAND WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR. THE SKILLS LEARNT IN MAKING THE CIRCUS FIGURES CAME INTO PLAY AND THE RESULTING TABLEAU OF THE FIGURES STANDING AROUND THE VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL WAS MOVING. THERE WERE LOTS OF POSITIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PORINGLAND VILLAGE ARCHIVE, WHO DID THE RESEARCH INTO EACH OF THE SOLDIERS, WERE ASTONISHED AT THE POWER THOSE FIGURES GENERATED. WE DID THE 11 FALLEN SOLDIERS FROM OUR VILLAGE PROUD. AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS PROJECT AND OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE GROW EX SERVICEMANS PROJECT, OUR SHED HAS SIGNED UP TO THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT.

IN BETWEEN TIMES WE COLLECTIVELY UPCYCLED FURNITURE, REPAIRED INNUMERABLE ELECTRICAL ITEMS FOR OUR COMMUNITY, MADE LOADS OF BIRD AND BAT BOXES, MADE LOG STORES AND HURDLES FOR GARDEN BORDERS, REPLACED THE POSTS AROUND BROOKE MERE, REFURBISHED GARDEN TOOLS AND FURNITURE, MADE A DOORWAY TO HEAVEN (DON'T ASK!) AND GENERALLY MADE OURSELVES USEFUL TO OUR COMMUNITY. WE HAVE FLOWN OUR BANNER AT VILLAGE FETES AND GIVEN TALKS TO PARISH COUNCILS. AT THE PRESENT WE ARE WORKING ON MAKING OWL BOXES FOR A NATURE RESERVE, MAKING SETS OF CRAZY GOLF GAMES FOR A CARE HOME, BUILDING A BUDDY BENCH FOR THE PLAYGROUND AND REFURBISHING THE READING ROOM FOR BROOKE SCHOOL – THIS INCLUDES MAKING A LARGE HOLLOW PAPER MACHE TREE WITH A SEAT INSIDE FOR A 'SNUG' AND PAPERING THE WALLS OF THE ROOM WITH PAGES FROM OLD BOOKS.

WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING? WHO AMONG YOU, A FEW YEARS AGO, WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT INSTEAD OF TWIDDLING YOUR THUMBS AND GAZING OUT OF THE WINDOW WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH YOURSELVES, YOU WOULD BE ENGAGED IN SUCH VALUABLE COMMUNITY WORK THAT NOT ONLY ENHANCES THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN OUR LOCALITY BUT GIVES YOU A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND SATISFACTION?

WE HAVE BEEN GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY OUR LOCAL PARISH COUNCILS, BY SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL AND COUNCILLORS AND BY NORFOLK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND NOT LEAST, BY PEOPLE MAKING DONATIONS FOR REPAIRS CARRIED OUT BY US.

BUBBLING ALONG IN THE BACKGROUND DURING THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR, WE HAVE BEEN MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS ACQUIRING OUR VERY OWN NEW SHED. PORINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL HAVE AGREED THAT WE CAN HAVE A PLOT ON A 99YR LEASE AT A PEPPERCORN RENT. ARCHITECTS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AND SOLICITORS ARE SORTING OUT THE SCOPE OF OUR LEASE. I HAVE BEEN TALKING TO THE LOTTERY FUND WHO HAVE ASKED LOTS AND LOTS AND LOADS OF QUESTIONS AND SO FAR, ARE STILL INTERESTED IN FUNDING OUR NEW SHED BUILD, WHICH IS GOING TO COST IN THE REGION OF £250K. IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE WILL RECEIVE A PERSONAL VISIT FROM THE FUND ADMINISTRATORS AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE GIVE A GOOD IMPRESSION OF OURSELVES AND CONVINCED THEM THAT WE ARE A SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION, CAPABLE OF SEEING A MAJOR NEW BUILD THROUGH TO COMPLETION AND IMPORTANTLY - KEEPING OUR SHED PROJECT GOING INTO THE FUTURE. I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN DO THIS.

NONE OF THE ABOVE WOULD HAVE HAPPENED - AND THE NEW SHED PROJECT WILL NOT HAPPEN, WITHOUT HOURS OF WORK BEHIND THE SCENES BY YOUR COMMITTEE AND I AM GRATEFUL TO THEM FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AND FOR THE PERSONAL SUPPORT THAT THEY GIVE ME AS YOUR CHAIRMAN.
END

Financial Report for the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018

Please refer to the handouts. These show:

- a) Our Income & Expenditure for the year,
- b) An overall situation statement of accounts up to 31st December 2018 and
- c) A summary of sources of funds received into the Shed Purchase account during 2018.

As in previous years the finances of The Shed have improved as Shed membership and activities have increased.

As you will know the source of our revenue is 3-fold.

- a) Funds received for Attendance at The Shed are used to cover the day to day running of The Shed, which in 2018 has included expenditure on maintenance & refurbishment, on equipment, for overheads & training courses and in 2018 a much enjoyed coach trip by members to Lowestoft.

The incoming funds have been supported by funds available from grants, which means we have a healthy balance of £1010 to kick off with in 2019.

Notably funds spent on maintenance & refurbishment were greatly reduced in 2018 & which gave us scope to acquire much needed capital equipment for use at The Shed. Overheads increased substantially due to extending our insurance to cover liability for the building and increased use of electricity

- b) We are fortunate that an important source of our income is derived from funds available in grants. Some of the funds are available without restrictions, others we have to take care that they are used according to the grant originator's wishes. As already stated these funds are important in underpinning our financial activities. In 2018 amount in these grants given to us was 74% greater than in 2017.

- c) Thirdly, we receive funds which we allocate to the Shed Purchase Fund. They derive from donations, generally for work done, repairs to equipment and such like, funds generated from attendance at local shows/fetes, payment for work in the local community, sales of surplus equipment and donation sites. Although they represent only a small amount needed to create the new building they are important as they demonstrate our will to acquire funds towards this major objective, and an involvement with the local community pertinent to The Shed's constitution. Please refer to the summary showing sums received during 2018. An increase of 70% over 2017.

The overall picture financially is rosy, but there will be greater costs & expenses as & when we make our major move

RLB

Secretary Report

Membership continues to grow and we now have 60 members on the books with more joining as word continues to spread.

Last year new data protection regulations were introduced - GDPR which necessitated us gaining your permission to email you newsletters and the like. We now have 39 members who have opted in - if you don't receive emails from us but would like to let one of the trustees know or email our Men's Shed email box pdmensshed@gmail.com and we will add you to the list.

The website continues to be viewed virtually every day by somebody and over 3 years we have had 15,000 views. In addition to providing information it is now beginning to document a history of what we have done and achieved since this project started back in 2015. But the site needs to be kept fresh and we shall be tweaking some aspects this year and like last year I would ask that you send in your photos or news of projects to keep it relevant.

Turning to fundraising we have been fortunate to have been awarded a number of grants but it is vital that we have our own income streams to pay for the day to day costs of running the shed.

Just over a year ago we signed up to an online shopping portal site "Give As You Live" and 8 people have signed up raising £250 in the first year£30 a head all for FREE! If we had say 40 people signed up that could generate over £1,000 a year.....and that covers our overheads FREE!

And even if you don't do online shopping yourselves I am sure you have a wife, partner, children or grandchildren that do. So I would encourage you to get them signed up!

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/pdms

We also have a link on the website to BT Mydonate which enables anyone to donate money to us either as a one off or regular donations. Unfortunately BT is closing down their site but the good news is we shall be migrating to Virgin Money Giving in the month or so and it operates in the same way.

Steve Dowall
Secretary PDMS
5th March 2019