



Groombridge Mens Shed Newsletter

April 20

Greetings to all Groombridge Shedders!

We hope you are keeping well and staying safe

NOW THAT WE ARE ALL SELF ISOLATING AT HOME PLEASE DO FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A CHAT ABOUT THE GROOMBRIDGE SHED PROJECT, OR IF YOU NEED OUR HELP OR SUPPORT. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

SHOULD YOU NEED HELP WITH SHOPPING, COLLECTING MEDICATION, YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT GROOMBRIDGE COMMUNITY RESPONSE ON 01892 860227 OR 07711 286776.

It has been a while since our last meeting and so we thought we should get a newsletter out on how we are getting on.

The Shed/ Garage at 4 The Homestead has been open every Thursday morning and some members have been working there. However this must now close until further notice as the COVID-19 pandemic is brought under control.

Our volunteer architect, Zara at Bloomfield Studios, has done an excellent job with the plans and there have now been submitted to Wealden. We would hope to get planning approved now by the end April. We are in contact with the Parish Council regarding preparing to get the lease agreed when the planning has been agreed.

Our volunteer web expert, Guy Orridge, is working with Richard Hunt to build a website and social media presence. We will send you the details of these when ready

Richard Hunt has also been working on applying for grants. He has already secured a grant of £5,000 from Wealden. Groombridge Men's Shed has now been awarded charity status by the Charities Commission, and this will improve greatly the likely success of our grant applications

We have a table booked at the Annual Parish Assembly. This was planned for the 28th March, but has now been postponed to a later date.

Ken Russell and Jim Litchfield had a very successful visit to St Michaels Primary School at Withyham to take part in their well organised after school programme of events. Below is there report with some pictures.

As soon as possible we will have a general meeting for all members. Until then we will look to send out regular mails.

GMS Committee

St Michael's School – Bird Box Building Programme. (By Ken Russell)

Groombridge Shedders are pleased to report about an invitation received from St Michaels Primary School at Withyham to take part in their well organised after school programme of events.

In a session scheduled at the very end of February, we had been asked to put together 5 wooden 'kits' in order that 10 children (working in pairs) could have the opportunity to put together bird boxes for the coming nesting season. Being a practically minded group, we called it our Bird Box Building Programme !

Off we trotted on the relevant day, armed with screwdrivers; the relevant Bird Box kits (predrilled) and IKEA style step by step instruction leaflets, thinking that the students would be in the older primary school age bracket - as it happened, the age range turned out to be quite wide, with some finding manual screwdrivers a bit of a challenge, but this was overcome by one thinking student asking if we had any 'technology' with us two cordless drill drivers were immediately produced from the Sheddars tool kit and a buzz went through the gathering, as bird boxes (metaphorically) came to life!

To add to the fun and games, we had a 'spot the deliberate mistake' reward box for the kids, plus some reference books, and a short video showing birds actually visiting a box, taken in the garden of one of our members. All that plus the opportunity to have their individual names branded on the base of their box at the end ...

It was a great event, enjoyed by all who attended - not least the Sheddars involved! It was a privilege for us to work with such well behaved and eager youngsters and we hope that they enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed theirs. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other - we look forward to the next time which might well be a bug box building event, tentatively scheduled for early Autumn.





