

# Read 'awl' about it

## The Lockdown Newsletter from the Cannock Chase Shed

ISSUE No. 12



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Our new facebook page is up and running – why not take a look, and start a conversation?

Just click on the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Cannock-Chase-Shed-101476578227936/>



Submissions and suggestions to:  
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# UK Men's Shed Association - Unlocking The Shed - A live stream session discussing the practicalities of reopening Sheds.

A brief summary, by Anne

If you missed it, view it now by following this [LINK](#)

Four representatives from Men's Sheds spread across the UK, and two representatives from the UKMSA joined together for a live broadcast to discuss the reopening of Sheds, with an opportunity for members watching to pose questions for the team to answer.

A survey conducted by UKMSA has concluded that members' top concerns about reopening were coping with social distancing, and opening for more sessions so that attendance can be spread out.

It was generally agreed upon that Covid 19 is not going away any time soon, so the new practices would be in place for some considerable time, and it made sense to reorganise the permanent layout of our Sheds to accommodate them. The main discussion was centred around Sheds that had reopened, and how they were functioning. The consensus was that a deep clean was not necessary, as Sheds had been closed long enough to rule out presence of the virus, but that a sort out of tools, and reorganisation of workstations was necessary, to facilitate both social distancing, and ease of selecting the required tool without unnecessary handling of other objects. .

The session opened with this simple message about masks: 'Treat your mask like underwear.'



The general rule of thumb was that risk assessments, rules and guidelines had been sent out to members well in advance of opening, and non compliance was not permitted. The measures put in place fell nicely in line with Barry's proposed plan of action (many thanks Barry, for the considerable time that must have taken). A limited number of places were available at each session, and must be prebooked. All the Sheds had made the use of masks or visors compulsory. Members signed in on arrival, and worked within designated work zones, with movement around the Shed restricted to prevent people from 'wandering'. Tools were wiped down by members both before and after use. Often, the first session back was a chat session, to familiarise members with the new practices.

Members of the Shed at Poringland in Norfolk have made a video about how the Shed is now running, to share with members who were uncertain about returning. This video is available to watch on the UKMSA website, or by following this [LINK](#)

It was felt that a session at the Shed was at least as safe as a visit to a shop, if not more so. If members did not feel ready to return, small projects were being delivered to their homes by other members.

**The committee at Cannock Chase Shed would really like to know your personal views on reopening. We are unable to open until the Museum reopens, but knowing your views will help with our planning for when that time comes. If you would consider returning to the Shed, please let Dave Shaw know (or any other committee member) if you haven't already, thanks.**



# The Copper Water Feature - Episode 2

by Messrs Heath & Robinson

The story so far – Messrs H & R have now formed around 8 copper maple leaves ready for attachment to some copper pipework to provide the water flow for a garden water feature. For the next stage, they purchased a coil of 10mm copper tubing 10m long from Wickes, and deliberated for hours on how to connect the 8 leaves together at the base, each with its own pipe. All sorts of weird manifold designs were thought of for connecting the 8 pipes, but what seemed the most simple, and formed a base at the same time, was to make a circle with the tubing at the bottom, and then to connect three pipes with “Tees” to the bottom circle. The circle base can be clamped easily to something heavy like a concrete slab to support the structure in windy conditions.

So H & R started with the top three leaves, bending the copper tube by hand into weird curve shapes which crossed half way up. The top centre leaf was about 1 metre high and was a continuous tube from the feed point at the base. The other two will be solder teed onto the circle. The photo shows the first three in position,



but for now, taped together to see if it might work out, before soldering the tees. The idea was for water to feed the top three or four, so that they would dribble down onto the lower leaves forming a cascade. The next stage was to add the remaining five pipes

by experimenting with some very intricate copper spaghetti knitting to produce the differing heights, as in the photo. Before soldering all the pipes and tees, H & R thought that a water flow test might be a good idea, so that a pump could be sized to suit. They used a small submersible pond pump for the test that was lying around and was rated at 1.4m head and 770L/hour and connected to just the highest centre leaf using hosepipe and lots of boggles at the pump outlet end, including Bluetack, as is typical of Heath & Robinson contraptions. The

pump was in a bucket at the base, and a watering can with Litre graduations held under the leaf on a table. The head of the pump was only just enough at that height to give a good dribble at the top, probably OK for dripping onto lower leaves. But three times as much is required as a minimum for all top leaves. The dribble turned out to be approx. 1 litre/minute using a stopwatch, so at least 3L/min was needed, or nearer 180L/hour at 1.2m high. So the pump tried wasn't really man enough, even though the numbers on the pump seemed to suggest otherwise. Clearly, never rely only on the headlining maximum flow figures for



pumps. It's never what you will get in reality. In an idle moment some time later on, H & R decided to do some research on how to calculate the pump, given these misleading figures from the manufacturers. For now, the tees had to be soldered and three flow reducing valves spliced in at the base to balance the flows. In the end they decided to feed four leaves, so three needed flow valves as these leaves were at a lower level.

H & R decided to move onto a bit more assembly of the leaves and pipework to see what it might look like. The result was in the photo with all 8 leaves, although with a small improvement to sticky tape by using hose pipe clips to keep the pipes together. After standing back to view their handiwork for a minute, they decided to have a well earned rest after all the brain power required, and get ready for the next stage of soldering the leaves in place, and placing it on top of a big hole outdoors to see what the water flow looked like. They were fairly sure that a bit more fettling might be in order yet. H & R



# A cautionary tale...

I have one remaining toy that I could not part with, a tiny Teddy sent to me in the mid 1950s by a pen friend in Berlin.

He lost his legs and arms along the way, and the fur covering from his tail, but I still treasure that little Teddy. Last year I decided that I would splash out and get something done about getting him professionally restored by giving him his legs & arms back - lost long ago - and a new cover for his tail. If you moved his tail up, down and side to side his head moved in unison.

After doing some research on the web I found somewhere in the UK, so I emailed them and sent him off.

Several months went by and I began to get concerned, so I chased them up. They said that they had had trouble matching his fur colour but had a similar shade was that OK? I just wanted him back so I thought it has taken long enough I'll just get it done so he could come home.

BIG mistake. He looks ridiculous! His arms & legs are the wrong colour, too large and there was no cover on his tail. When I enquired they sent me some material to cover it myself!

Sometimes things are best left to memory.

Avril.



## My first Woodwork project...



This fish has hung on my mum's lounge wall since 1978. It was my first ever woodwork project at school, when I was 12 years old.

I also made a wooden pendant, which I think I still have somewhere. I was at Lindens Middle School at the time, and my woodwork and metal work teacher was Mr Linthwaite, (this may be of interest to one Shed member's wife, who

was also on the teaching staff of that school at the time). The pendant was to be my final school woodwork project, as being a girl, I wasn't allowed to pursue woodwork at secondary school - something that I have always felt very strongly about.

Do you remember your first project? We'd love to hear about it...



# Past Projects...

# Anne's dresser

They say that necessity is the mother of invention - well, my necessity was that I was working from home as a private tutor, and needed a piece of furniture that would house all of my teaching materials, which were threatening to take over our dining room.

Unfortunately, the type of unit I had in mind was bespoke, and way beyond my budget. So I started drawing plans, and when I finally decided on a design, I made a scale model out of cardboard. But there it stopped. It took two more years for me to muster the courage to actually make a start.



Husband Gav helped me with the build. Given our 'enthusiastic amateur' skill set, it was turning out pretty well, although I'm pretty sure we did a lot of things wrong. Here is our progress in pictures...



Our trusty assistant, Jazz, catching a power nap on one of the shelves.



Unfortunately, before the dresser was completed, I became ill and was out of action for a couple of years. As soon as I was well enough, we decided to move house. We agreed that we didn't want a half built dresser taking pride of place in the dining room, so we rushed to get it looking presentable.





It doesn't look too bad at all in this picture, but looks can be deceiving.

In reality, the hinges which had not been fitted properly meant that the doors wouldn't stay closed, so they were wedged shut with bits of folded cardboard.

The drawers looked fine, but they were never finished off, so they were awkward to get in and out, some of them didn't have bottoms in, and there were no stops to prevent them from pushing in too far. The plinth wasn't attached, the top of the dresser wasn't finished... I could go on, but I'm sure you get the idea.

We couldn't continue working on it while there were people viewing the house, so it stayed as it was. Then we moved, and suddenly

there were a thousand other jobs that needed doing, and finishing the dresser was right at the bottom of the list.

I'm ashamed to say that five years on, it still hasn't been touched. There just always seems to be something more pressing to deal with. I'm hoping that by going public with this, I might shame myself into finally finishing this project, which began with a cardboard model nearly ten years ago.



My original model



The 'finished on the surface' dresser

I still have the original model, kept as a reminder to myself of what I can achieve if I really set my mind to something, but as I was photographing it for this article, a curious truth has struck me. I have actually created a truly faithful copy of the original... my model also has doors that don't close properly, and slightly wonky drawers which are actually a facade, having no actual drawer behind them...

The dresser has functioned pretty much as it was intended, despite being unfinished, and is every bit as useful as I had hoped, all that's missing are the finishing touches. My woodworking skills have improved since I last worked on it, so maybe 2020 is the year to finally get it done.

# Woodworker's Tips... How to hide a wood screw.

I found a really useful tutorial on the internet, it said I should:

1. Make a small pencil mark in the place where you want to put the screw.
2. Place a chisel about 1.5 cm away from the mark, with the bevel pointing down, and curl up a 5cm long strip of wood.
3. Drill a pilot hole for the screw, remember to countersink the hole because you want the screw head to be flush with the surrounding wood.
4. Coat both the wood around the screw head and the underside of the curl with glue use sufficient glue to fill any small cracks.
5. Cover a piece of scrap wood with parcel tape (to stop it sticking) and clamp on top of the glued area
6. Allow to dry for at least 60 mins, then sand. It doesn't matter if the glue is still slightly wet, as the sawdust will mix with it and create a wood filler to fill any small gaps.

NB

It is not not advisable to do any further planing after using this technique

It sounded easy enough, and the pictures made it look simple, so I thought I'd give it a go....



I chose a piece of wood to practise on – in hindsight, I should have sanded it first...



First attempt with the chisel, not good. Try again...



Second attempt, a bit better but not great. I can see you cringing already...



Drill pilot hole,



Countersink,



Insert fixing,



Glue it down,



Clamp it together



Release from clamp, (not looking too bad),



Sand gently – oops, probably should have let it dry overnight first

I think I'll stick to filling the holes with wood glue and sawdust for now, but I'll keep practising. ...anyone know how to sharpen a chisel?

By Anne



# This week's Quiz...

## Test your James Bond Knowledge.



1. The villain in a The World is not Enough is played by Robert Carlyle and is called Renard. Renard is the French for which animal?
2. The film Never Say never Again in which Sean Connery returned to the role of James Bond was a remake of which earlier film?
3. In the same film, which British comedian played the role of a bumbling British spy?

4. What make of watch does James Bond wear in the film Quantum of Solace? (Rolex, Cartier, Omega, Breitling, Patek Phillipe or Casio)
5. Who currently plays M?
6. Which Bond film was set predominantly in India?
7. What is the name of the character who regularly appears in James Bond films as Bond's friend in the CIA, almost invariably played by different actors?



8. Which of these characters has not been a bond girl: Pussy Galore, Holly Goodhead, Plenty O'Toole, Mimi Lay, Mary Goodnight, Molly Warmflash?
9. How many English born actors have played James Bond in authorised films?

10. What is the motto of the Bond family as found on their coat of arms?



# HUMOUR

Whoever said "Out of sight, out of mind" never had a spider disappear in the bedroom.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine yesterday is now fully recovered.

Two people stole a calendar... They each got six months.

Autocorrect makes me type things I didn't Nintendo

**Elderly couple in church. Wife turns to husband and says "I've just done a silent fart, what should I do?" Husband says "put new batteries in your hearing aid!"**

I didn't think wearing orthopedic shoes would help, but I stand corrected.

A man was struck by a bottle of omega 3 pills. Luckily his wounds were only super fish oil.

**WARNING**  
There is an email going around offering processed pork, gelatin and salt in a can. If you receive this email, do not open it. It's spam.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

**DIET DAY 1 :  
I HAVE REMOVED ALL THE BAD FOOD FROM THE HOUSE. IT WAS DELICIOUS.**

I didn't mean to gain weight. It happened by snaccident.

Marriage is about understanding what irritates your spouse and using it strategically.

**Wife: Shall we try a different position tonight?  
Husband: Excellent idea.  
Wife: Ok, you stand at the sink, wash dishes and I will lie on the sofa and watch TV.**

# Answers to the Beatles Quiz in Newsletter Issue 11

1. All My Loving
2. All Together Now
3. All You Need Is Love
4. And I Love Her
5. Can't Buy Me Love
6. Day Tripper
7. Dear Prudence
8. Drive My Car
9. 8 Days A Week
10. Eleanor Rigby
11. Get Back
12. A Hard Day's Night
13. Hey Jude
14. I Am The Walrus
15. Lady Madonna
16. I Wanna Hold Your Hand
17. Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds
18. Magical Mystery Tour
19. Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band
20. Strawberry Fields Forever
21. The Long And Winding Road
22. While My Guitar Gently Weeps
23. Let It Be
24. Long Tall Sally
25. Love Me Do
26. Michelle
27. Nowhere Man
28. Paperback Writer
29. Penny Lane
30. Please Please Me
31. Polythene Pam
32. Revolution
33. When I'm Sixty Four
34. Ticket To Ride
35. Yesterday

life  
hacks

If a shirt/sweater has static clinging, put a safety pin in it. The static will instantly go away.

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#2765

Get an ink stain on some fabric? Rub some hand sanitizer into it. BOOM, stain gone!

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Get rid of rust by rubbing it with aluminum foil soaked in vinegar.

#484

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Forget using all those gross chemicals to kill ants. Instead, just get a spray bottle, fill it three-quarters full with water and the remaining quarter with salt. Shake well and spray the colony.

#335

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Lemons, oranges, and limes repel spiders. Simply mix one or all of them with water in a spray bottle and spray in doorways, windowsills and wherever you've seen spiders.

#773

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