

Read 'awl' about it

The Lockdown Newsletter from the

# Cannock Chase Shed

Issue no. 14



## This week....

- Shed News: Reopening
- Electronics Tuition
- Easy Fundraising
- Broken is beautiful
- A New Project in the Pipeline
- The Shed Knowledge Base
- A bit of a Laugh



Submissions and suggestions to:

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# SHED NEWS FROM DAVE

I have contacted the Museum and spoke to Rachael and have been told that they are opening for three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

This is phase one to see how it goes with the public.

They are not letting any groups back until after phase two which might be in 2 to 3 weeks, but it could be at least 4 before we can open up the Shed. They will let us know when we can return.

So it looks like it's going to be at least October before we can open. Not what anyone wanted to hear, and I wish it could be better news.



# Electronics tuition

Barry James has been given a collection of electronics kit, and has very generously offered to make up a beginners kit.

He's happy to provide free tuition to anyone who would be interested in learning more about electronics.

This could lead to simple projects, like making traffic lights for a model, model train accessories, temperature measurement, even a robot!

If this would be of interest to you, please contact Barry: [barrykjames@yahoo.com](mailto:barrykjames@yahoo.com)

## Easy fundraising

Six people have already registered, and are visiting online shops via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) which automatically generates a donation. This has brought in nearly £20 so far, which is of enormous help in fundraising for Cannock Chase Shed.

**Thank you.**

Every little 1p or 2p mounts up.

If anyone is thinking of joining the scheme to help our funds, please get in touch with Graham, as if he introduces them we get an introduction fee of £5.00.

Avril CCS Fundraiser.

## Broken Is Beautiful



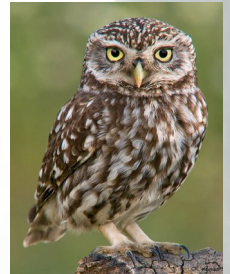
# ...a new Project in the Pipeline

We have been contacted by Paul Hopwood who is the secretary of the West Midlands Ringing Group. They are a group of Bird ringers from the Midlands, (but mainly in Staffordshire) and their work involves monitoring birds in the area by ringing or nest recording.

Due to the work that they do, which is based on birdlife, the West Midlands Ringing Group are looking to build a selection of bird boxes for the area to provide nesting habitats for a range of species locally. At present they are looking at boxes for Red Listed species (at significant risk) and have identified a selection of birds to concentrate on. These are Tree Sparrow, Pied Flycatcher, Barn Owls, Little Owls and Kestrels. All of these species will use bird boxes, and members of The Cannock Chase Shed have been invited to help construct them. The majority of boxes made would be for their voluntary work but some would be sold to return some income to enable them to continue with the project.



Kestrel



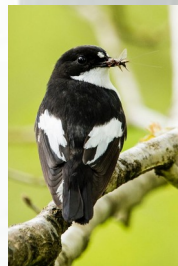
Little Owl



Barn Owl



Tree Sparrow



Pied Flycatcher

The West Midlands Ringing Group would also like to involve some community groups in what they actually do, showing people their work, introducing them to nest recording and showing birds in the hand. They may also do a talk about their work and what they are doing locally.



Please note: These are generic images, we have no information yet as to the exact design of the boxes we will be building.

The West Midlands Ringing Group have a Website and social media accounts, if you would like to find out more about what they do, please have a search for West Midlands Ringing Group on Google or Facebook, and @ringerwm on Twitter.

# The Shed Knowledge Base

**All you ever need to know about seasoned timber, the how and why... By Phil Arm**

Seasoning timber involves slowly lowering its moisture content to that of the environment in which it is to be used. If this isn't done, anything constructed from unseasoned timber will split, shrink, twist or warp after it has been made.

Wood shrinks along its growth rings as it dries, so if left in round logs, splits occur from the outside of the tree towards its heart.

The best analogy is to imagine that the growth rings are an elastic band that gets tighter and tighter until they eventually break.

Hence, if a log is cut in half through its heart, the semi circles which are left can shrink without splitting as the growth rings shorten. Timber, once cut into planks, needs to be seasoned slowly or in a controlled environment to avoid it splitting or warping.

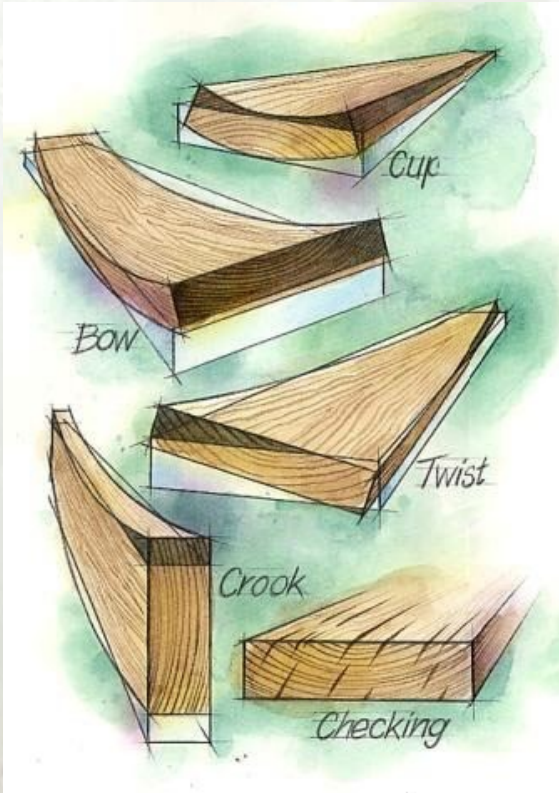




It also dries out quickest from its end grain, so it's common practice to paint the ends with wax or an oil based paint to slow the moisture loss down.



Timber which is seasoned slowly produces the best quality material. If done naturally, outdoors but under cover, 1" thickness takes about a year to season.



Most wooden construction materials are seasoned in a kiln where the moisture content is reduced gradually over several days, but this can lead to internal stresses in the material which manifest themselves by it twisting and warping once cut.

**- Phil Arm**

We would like to make Knowledge Base a regular feature of the newsletter, covering a wide a wide variety of subjects, not just woodworking and tools. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with Anne (contact details on front page) or Barry: [barrykjames@yahoo.com](mailto:barrykjames@yahoo.com)

And finally...

## 12 Commandments For Seniors...

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. “In Style” are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don’t need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It’s your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, ” I don’t need to write that down. I’ll remember it.
6. “On time” is when you get there.
7. Even duct tape can’t fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
9. Lately, you’ve noticed people your age are so much older than you.
10. Growing old should have taken longer.
11. Ageing has slowed you down, but it hasn’t shut you up.
12. You still haven’t learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

**And one more:** “One for the road” means going to the bathroom before you leave the house.

Have a good week.