



Read 'awl' about it

The Lockdown Newsletter from the

Cannock Chase Shed

ISSUE No. 18



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Submissions and suggestions to:
annewallbank@talktalk.net

01543 520452

07526 636194



From this...



...to this.

Shed News

Pete, our web-master has been doing a lot of work on the web site so, if you haven't looked at it for a while, you are going to be surprised at how good it is now.

If you have anything that you would like added to our site send it on to Pete at:

exwoodsetton@gmail.com

and he will do his best to get it sorted.

The website has pictures of completed projects, Committee Meeting minutes, details about Covid measures and much more, it's well worth a look.

Please click on the following link to visit our website:

CANNOCK CHASE SHED WEBSITE



Every Cannock Chase Shed member & guest should be receiving a copy of 'Shoulder2Shoulder' from UKMSA - UK Men's Shed Association - every month.

If you have not had one please let Avril know on - enquiries@cannockchaseshed.org and she will get it set up for you



VIP visit for Street Men's Shed



How do you make a home-made bee house?

The beauty of a home made Bee house is that you can use re-cycled or waste wood to make them cheaply.

All you need is a wooden box open on one side, with an overhanging, sloping roof to deflect the rain.

Fix it onto a sunny fence or wall and fill it with small logs or blocks of wood into which you have drilled small holes (around 8mm).



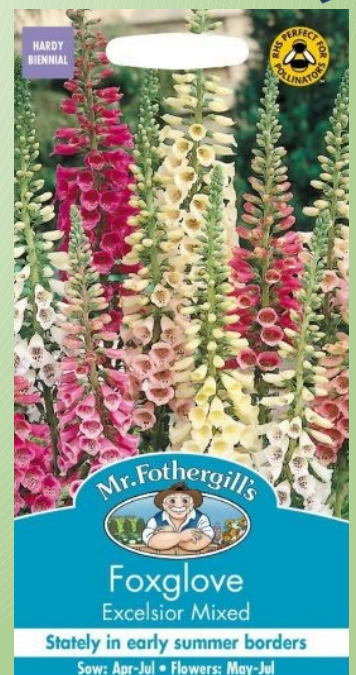
Another option is to take the top and bottom off a large plastic bottle and fill it with pieces of old bamboo canes or dried grasses, (it must be dry or it will just rot). A piece of old drain pipe will also do the same job.



In late Autumn remove the box and leave it somewhere dry to protect the eggs and larvae, then in the spring put it outside ready for them to hatch 2 weeks later. Younger members of the family may like to help you to do this too.

You can encourage bees to use your box by siting it near to plants that bees are attracted to, like lavender, so they have plenty of food nearby.

You don't need to know plant names, just look around for the plants that have the most bees on them. If you're buying seeds, look for packs with the 'bee friendly' logo on them.



Free to any member, balsa wood boat kit- abandoned project.

If interested contact Les Jewkes on 07908 946761



Tool library

Tim has a small band saw, a scroll saw and a work bench that might be of use to some members.

He is willing to offer these out on a loan basis, to Shed members.

If you would like to borrow any of these please contact Tim:
timbo98@hotmail.com



Recycling pallets

Hubby and I work together. I find the pallets and he does all the work. Suits me fine!

I keep an eye out when passing peoples' gardens, especially this year as so many of us have done long awaited alterations to house and gardens. If I see a pallet I send him in to ask! They are usually very glad to be rid of the pallets. I also look on local Community sites, Freecycle and Nextdoor etc.

We bring it home and dismantle it with a special long handled tool that you can get from eBay, it took ages in the early days before we splashed out on the tool.



We make different things but mostly he makes wall hanging troughs. They last for 3-4 years if you use an old heavy-duty polythene sack as a liner. When the bottom or a side starts to rot it can easily be repaired by using another piece of pallet. The steel for brackets we have to buy usually from B&Q but, we reuse it again when an old pallet made trough has had its day.

I do the potting up twice a year. Emptying them is a pain as I have so many but it's worth it for the display. I use the smaller daffodils, tulips, crocus and hyacinths for the spring ones and begonias and geraniums for the summer displays.

The floor standing ones are quite a feature in our garden, both back and front gardens have several.

I keep all the corms and bulbs in the garage over the winter or Summer so there's little cost except buying the odd few to top up with if I see them on offer anywhere. I make my own compost and mix it with the old stuff. 1 new part to 3 old as it is very rich and would burn the growing plants. Every couple of years I put in new bought compost, the best quality from a local Nursery so that I don't carry infections or weeds.

...and this is what they look like.



Just for Laughs...

It turns out that when asked who your favorite child is, you're supposed to pick one of your own. I know that now.

I'm giving up drinking until Christmas.
Sorry, bad punctuation.
I'm giving up. Drinking until Christmas.

Laundry:

Washing - 30 mins

Drying - 60 mins

Putting away - 7 to 10 business days



As a young child my Mother told me I can Be anyone I want to be...

...it turns out this is called identity theft.



Where there's a will...

An elderly Italian Gent living alone in New Jersey wanted to plant his annual tomato garden but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. So he wrote to his son and told him of his problem.

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad because it looks as though I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just too old to be digging up a garden plot. I now if you were here my troubles would be over as I know that you would be happy to dig my garden for me like you always have.

Love, Papa.

A few days later he received a short letter from his son.

Dear Pa,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love, Vinnie.

At 4.00am the next morning, FBI agents and the local police arrived and dug up the entire garden area without finding any bodies.

They apologised and to the Gentleman and left. Later that week he received another letter from his son.

Dear Pa,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

I love you, Vinnie.

Pondino

My wife is the gardener and she knows the merits of a garden pond, both as a feature for us humans to enjoy but also for increasing the range of flora & fauna it will encourage.

Lockdown2 meant no more excuses would be accepted - so here is the result - PONDINO - an 80x40x25 (cm not feet, though!) micro-pond.

We don't have much available space but Freda assures me size doesn't matter???

I dug out the hole, used 3 large left-over wall tiles as a base and an old under-bed storage tray for the 'liner.'

Water, plus mud containing lots of wiggly things, 'borrowed' from a local pond, oxygenating pondweed borrowed from a friend's pond, a water iris borrowed from a local canal and a mini-gabion basket made from galvanised wire mesh and pebbles borrowed from.... (you get the idea)....completed the initial setup.

The gabion basket is to allow safe entry and exit for any crawling wildlife keen to explore this des res - Stairway to Heaven?



One of our sons made the nameplate out of cement – a surprise adornment but much appreciated.

We now wait with bated breath to see what comes next Spring. So far plenty of Autumn leaves but not much else.

Frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies, water boatmen, snails, pond skaters, damselflies.....Freda already has her 'Eye Spy Pondlife' check list ready.

I love her confidence!

Pete

DIY Motorhome?

A Seattle Washington Motor home made from a single Douglas Fir Log on a 1920 3 ton Dodge Brothers chassis. The Douglas Fir was named after David Douglas a Scottish botanist. ❖ with Rita Chapman Dale R. Lundy Dale Hunter Bart Abare Ryan Kowalski and Curtis Hunter.



Dave Pursall
would like to wish everyone a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May the spirit of Christmas
fill your home with
warmth,*

*love
and
laughter.*



Anne