

Read 'awl' about it

The Lockdown Newsletter from

The Cannock Chase Shed

Issue No. 21

Submissions and suggestions to Bob Mason at:
shednewsletter@virginmedia.com



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Shed News

Cannock Chase Shed Zoom Webchats

These are still taking place at **10.30 am each Monday**

Committee meetings are held on Tuesdays

(for committee members only)

If you'd like to drop in, please contact Barry (barrykjames@yahoo.com) who will help you to get set up, and send you an invitation to join the meeting.

Check our webpage...

...for information about our Shed, updates about reopening and back issues of the newsletter.

We are on Facebook...

Remember we have a Facebook page, where you can chat with friends, exchange ideas or ask for advice, as well as sharing your projects.

If you are having trouble finding the bits you need for your project, why not post a request? Another member may have just what you're looking for sitting unused in their garage, or they may know where you can get one.

If you have useful items that you are loath to throw away, why not put up a post, offering them to other members, before consigning them to the tip?

Why not post a message now? Public Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/383047082346303>

Official Facebook page: Private Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cannockchaseshedders>

Hi my name is **Bob Mason** I am taking over the producing of the newsletter to help out. My thanks to **Anne** for her previous work getting the newsletter to where it is at now, and for her continued future input.

A little bit about me

Hi My name is Bob Mason I have been Graham's neighbour, friend and computer club colleague. I am a Born-Again Christian, and was widowed in August 2019 a few weeks before my 44th Anniversary to my wife Sue.



I served my apprenticeship as a toolmaker and settled in the chain company in the firm which had a group of companies called the Denbro group, which included: -
The Birmingham Tool and Gauge Co Ltd – BTG
The Birmingham Associated Chain Company Ltd - BACCO
Dennison Watchcase who had actually finished then and Capacitors Ltd,
Later Clarke Olsen gears were brought into the New group The Patent Industrial Group. In the chain company 'BACCO' worked on making chain jump rings and various other things in: -

9ct, 14ct, Gold, Silver, Gilding metal, Brass, Copper, Iron, Nickel, Stainless steel, Aluminium, and Rolled gold, on trace, curb and fancy chain machines. Overhauling the chain machines and new tooling to make chain and various other items. I eventually settled for the chain company finished my apprenticeship there where I also had day release at college to gain my :

**City & Guilds Full Technological Certificate - City of Birmingham Polytechnic
in Mechanical Engineering Technicians - Engineering Production**

I have been a Chain maker in Precious Metals for over 30 years, in 2007 I was made redundant for the 5th time in my career and decided to change career and did a Microsoft distance learning course, in 2008 from which I gained: -

CompTIA A+ Certified Professional IT Technician

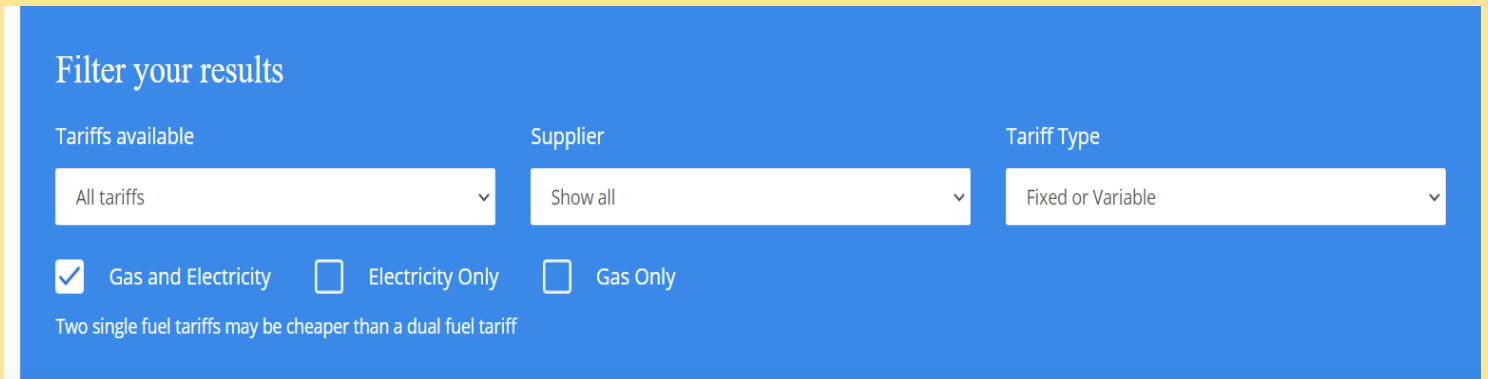
Microsoft Certified Professional MCP

Microsoft Certified Desktop Support Technician MCDST

Then the course provider went into admiration so could not finished the rest of the course so I decided to Retire. Downsized house to a ground floor flat in the town and within 3 months got ill and in July 2016 was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis a rare incurable neurological disorder nearly died in 2018 but thanks to Stoke hospital recovered and at present am stable.

Switching Energy Suppliers

I had to look for a new energy supplier and while I was using all the usual price comparison sites to find a better deal (I did), I found several better deals than the Scottish Power tariff I was on. When I went on to the Which? web site and was doing a price comparison on energy as well.



Filter your results

Tariffs available: All tariffs

Supplier: Show all

Tariff Type: Fixed or Variable

Gas and Electricity Electricity Only Gas Only

Two single fuel tariffs may be cheaper than a dual fuel tariff

I noticed the message above saying that "Two single tariffs may be cheaper than one dual fuel tariff" so I had a look. I had already used this site to do a dual fuel comparison so I thought I will try it. Instead of choosing dual fuels I selected just electricity and put in the same details that I used for the dual fuel, I then did the search and I was gob smacked! The best electricity tariff came in at £100 a year cheaper than the electricity tariff of the dual fuels search.

It worked for me so try it your selves and see if it could save you.

Graham (Treasurer)

The Lockdown Walks – Litter Trolley

Out on my lockdown walks over the last months, suddenly realise how much litter has been out of car windows, in my area the local lanes Penkridge. Probably the same everywhere, it was couldn't stand it any longer. So, bought a litter eBay, used some kitchen bin bags, and set off. an hour the huge bag was full of beer bottles and



you chucked around awful; I picker from After half cans, and I



to put the bags in. I had just turfed out some wall cupboards from the utility room and with some donated pram wheels, knocked up the trolley in the photo. Bit of metalwork making the saddle brackets for the axle underneath, and the long handle came from the legs of one of the chucked out plastic chairs inherited at the shed when we had too many. It's even electric "ready", using an electric scooter twist throttle on the handle! Got the motor, courtesy of Dave C, so just need the batteries, and a large gear wheel making to mesh with the braking teeth on each wheel now. Anyone got a 3D printer?

One day maybe... in the meantime it's been full every day since.

Without really thinking about the consequences, I started a litter picking group, and now have over 80 volunteers and a huge admin nightmare. Also been trying to find funding for litter pickers, bags, vests, gloves and so on, never mind wondering what to do with all those 80 people on a huge list. It's become a full-time job.

The upshot is that quite a few on that list may also need a trolley. I'm quite happy to make them, but it does depend on having the wheels on an axle as a basis.

So this is a call-out to Shed members... does anyone have any old pram wheels on an axle they don't need, and maybe scrap tubing I can bend for a long handle? Thanks, if you can help.

Barry

Could you...

- Sort through your photos and send me a picture and a few words? – your pet, garden, favourite holiday, your most useful tool, a current or past project, a cooking success (or disaster) or favourite recipe? – Pretty much anything you like.
- send me a suggestion of something you'd like to see included in the newsletter? – anything from just a broad idea, to a finished article.
- send in a 'reader's letter'? Share an anecdote or treasured memory? Share your expertise with those who have less experience?
- Send in something else, or help in another way that I haven't even mentioned?

Meet the Committee

Dave Shaw	Chairman
Leslie Jukes	Deputy chairman
Barry James	Health & Safety
Avril Green	Fundraising/Secretary
Graham Johnson	Treasurer
Tim Cutler	Project Manager

Shed Media

Peter Ross	Website/Facebook Group
Bob Mason	Newsletter

Hello again!

There's an interesting article below on how to make a barn owl boxes from the G&WCT that might be of interest.

Also, I wondered if you could put a big Thank you to Anne Wallbank for all of the past 20 'Read awl about it' newsletters that she has compiled since the shutdown. It has been a tremendous help in keeping in contact with our members, passing on useful information and been very useful to Committee members when dealing with admin.

Avril.

I asked Avril to get permission for copyright material below

Dear Avril

Thank you for your enquiry. I have taken a look at your webpage and your community group sounds wonderful and looks like your group is doing some great work.

Please feel free to use details from our article in your Shed magazine, we would be delighted to share it with your members. The detailed indoor nest box plans included under a link within the article are from the Barn Owl Trust website, which can be downloaded online and printed also.

I hope the box building goes well, and please do share any pictures of the end products as we would love to share with people on our social media.

With best wishes

Jodie Case
GWCT Research Assistant
The Owl Box Initiative

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The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust
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Game & Wildlife CONSERVATION TRUST



[How to make a barn owl nest box \(Advice\)](#)

There are many manufacturers that produce barn owl nest boxes to purchase, but if materials and tools are available, then boxes can also be made by hand. Find out how you can make your own box here...

About our blogs

We publish several blogs from across the charity, written by different GWCT staff members. These blogs are often written in a less formal style and may contain views that are not those held by the GWCT. To read official GWCT position statements on our website [click here](#).

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From Avril

**Is Anyone interested in having a :
For Sale
To Buy
Give away for Free
Come and Collect
SECTION in this Newsletter?
Comments Please**

Snippet

I decided to take up a hobby I saw a wood burning kit and thought I'll have a go but after the flames had died down, I realised I wasn't supposed to have set fire to the wood but used the hot tool to burn stuff into the wood. Ha-ha

If you have any clean jokes perhaps you would like to share them with us

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words...and the winners are:

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoyle (n.), gross olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. Flatulance (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
12. Pokemon (n), a Rastafarian proctologist.
13. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men..
14. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

H	A	M	P	E	R	W	V	D	O	G	C	P	K	E
D	E	S	K	Y	H	C	E	N	H	Y	A	A	W	I
G	A	R	A	G	E	U	G	B	O	U	T	I	O	Y
C	G	C	U	F	Q	P	E	E	U	N	E	N	R	S
H	V	O	M	E	A	I	T	D	S	D	L	T	K	T
A	U	A	B	V	L	C	A	R	E	E	E	W	N	O
I	L	T	R	L	B	N	B	O	P	R	V	O	I	C
R	A	Y	E	A	A	I	L	O	L	S	I	R	F	K
C	D	T	L	G	T	C	E	M	A	E	S	K	E	I
U	D	O	L	E	H	T	S	C	N	A	I	H	T	N
T	E	W	A	R	R	A	O	H	T	L	O	A	W	G
G	R	E	A	M	O	B	C	E	B	X	N	W	D	S
E	U	L	J	U	B	L	K	S	H	O	U	S	E	O
T	O	R	C	H	E	E	R	T	B	A	T	H	H	U
O	S	T	E	P	L	A	D	D	E	R	D	K	T	P

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| SOCK | DOG |
| HAIRCUT | PAINTWORK |
| LAGER | WORK |
| COAT | SOUP |
| UNDERSEAL | TORCH |
| UMBRELLA | BEDROOM |
| KNIFE | TELEVISION |
| CHEST | CUP |
| STOCKINGS | TOWEL |
| DESK | BATH |
| LADDER | BATHROBE |
| HOUSEPLANT | STEPLADDER |
| HOUSE | GARAGE |
| VEGETABLES | PICNICTABLE |
| CAT | HAMPER |

BOB

Answers next time

WSCpuzzle1

P	U	G	K	P	R	I	N	T	E	R	L	N	C	C
S	X	K	D	R	A	C	S	P	A	D	E	E	R	A
S	L	A	W	N	M	O	W	E	R	D	G	D	W	T
A	F	O	R	K	N	D	A	P	I	B	O	R	I	Q
R	E	S	U	O	H	D	R	I	B	B	D	A	O	B
G	V	S	R	E	P	P	I	N	S	D	W	G	D	A
A	R	E	M	A	C	L	L	A	T	E	M	U	E	L
G	R	A	S	S	C	U	T	T	I	N	G	S	H	L
E	K	I	B	R	O	T	O	M	W	O	O	D	S	O
J	G	W	R	H	E	L	I	C	O	P	T	E	R	N
S	Y	E	N	G	O	H	E	G	D	E	H	N	I	T
I	P	H	O	N	E	N	A	L	P	S	A	S	F	G
D	R	E	T	T	E	L	S	W	E	N	H	X	Y	L
N	A	R	E	T	U	P	M	O	C	U	V	O	C	I
N	L	A	T	H	E	L	E	S	I	H	C	U	E	O

BALLON
 CAR
 COMPUTER
 GARDEN
 HEDGEHOG
 IPHONE
 METAL
 OIL
 SHED
 SPADE

BIRDHOUSE
 CAT
 DOG
 GRASS
 HELICOPTER
 LATHE
 MOTORBIKE
 PLANE
 SHOE
 TIN

CAMERA
 CHISEL
 FORK
 GRASSCUTTINGS
 IPAD
 LAWNMOWER
 NEWSLETTER
 PRINTER
 SNIPPERS
 WOOD

Answers next time

Just For Fun

THE NEW MEDICAL ALPHABET FOR US OLDIES

A is for acute arthritis.

B is for bad back and also bad breath.

C's for the chest pains that scare me to death.

D is for dental decay and decline.

E is for eyesight, can't read that top line.

F is for fissure and fluid retention.

G is for gas I'd rather not mention.

H is high blood pressure-I'd rather it was low.

I's for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend.

K is for knees that crack when they bend.

L's for libido, what happened to sex?

M is for memory, whatever is next

N's for neuralgia, it makes me go slow.

O is for osteoporosis, bones that don't grow.

P's for prescriptions, I have quite a few.

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?

R is for reflux; one meal becomes two.

S is for skin rash, gets worse every year.

T is for Tinnitus, bells in my ear.

U is for urinary, troubles with flow.

V 's for vertigo, that's 'dizzy' you know.

W's for worry, NOW what's going round.

X is for X ray, and what might be found.

Z is for sleeping! ZZZZZZZ in my bed and all of these ailments
now fill me with dread!

Have a Laugh



Two salesmen were going door to door, when they knocked on the door of a woman who was not happy to see them. She told them that she did not want to hear their message and slammed the door. To her surprise, how the door did not close and, bounced back open. She tried again and convinced these rude young people were sticking their foot in the door, she reared back to give it a slam that would teach them a lesson, when one of them said: Ma'am, before you do that again, you might need to move your cat.

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE AND LAUGHTER

Donald Trump will announce a comeback soon, but he's Biden his time.

Sturgeon v Salmond. It's all a fishy business or perhaps a damp squid.

Sturgeon v Salmond 2. These fish are not as important as the livelihoods of fisherman.

A jar of Omega 3 vitamins fell on my head when I opened the cupboard. I sustained super fish oil injuries

I'm multitasking,

**I can listen, ignore
and forget at the
same time**

I think I have that Covid,
I'm coughing quite a lot;
I cannot smell a blooming thing,
and I'm feeling very hot.
I'm told to ring 111,
they'll tell me what to do.
Then suddenly I realise
as I dial and start to queue,
It's not the Covid after all,
but my lunchtime Vindaloo.

if you ever get an
email about pork,
ham, salt, and
preservatives,
don't open it.
it's spam



MALE GOLFER ANAGRAMS QUIZ

1	A FOND LICK	
2	BYE SNOB JOB	
3	CLAMMY TRUNK	
4	PEARLY GRAY	
5	TOWELED WOES	
6	A NUKED DOLL	
7	ACES LAYUP	
8	CARRIAGE IS GO	
9	ALPINE TOUR	
10	I'D WORST EGO	
11	RESCUED FLOP	
12	HELP I'M IN LOCKS	
13	SWEATY PARENT	
14	TWOFOLD MEMO YET	
15	GRIM EMOTION CLONE	
16	A WINO MOANS	
17	GASTRIC UNREST	
18	SONS HUNT DIJON	
19	SNEER LIE	
20	WALK SAD NINNY	
21	ATOMS TOWN	
22	INJURE TOSS	
23	A YANK TRIMMER	
24	GRACED WELL MEMO	
25	ENERGISE FOOT	

Answers next time

KENTUKY CHAIR



I found this if anyone wants to try

You start with three six foot 2x4s (I used pressure treated pine), ripped into nine equal 1 1/2 x 1 1/8 pieces. By judicious measuring, this should yield the following:

Seat: (A) 6 pieces 15" long) each piece has two 1/4" holes
(B) 2 pieces 35" long) drilled in the center of the wider side. Measure from the same end:
1st hole 1 1/2";
2nd hole 12".
(C) 9 pieces 9 5/8" long: Two holes, 1 1/2" from each end.

Back: (D) 4 pieces 31 1/2" long) Each piece has two holes, at
(E) 2 pieces 29" long) 1 1/2" and 25" measured
(F) 2 pieces 42" long) from the same end.

All held together with 9 gauge galvanized wire..

Align seat pieces as : A-A-B-A-A-B-A-A and hold together loosely at top with a length of wire through the upper (1 1/2" holes); At the lower (12")holes, intersperse each piece with a length of C. That is:

C-A-C-A-C-B-C-A-C-A-C-B-C-A-C-A-C. Wire and set aside.

Align back pieces in the order F-D-E-D-D-E-D-F, and again hold together loosely with a wire through the holes which are 1 1/2 from the end.

Now marry the two parts by threading wire through the remaining holes, with the C pieces acting as the connectors. The new joint should have the configuration: C-F-C-D-C-E-C-D-C-D-C-E-C-D-C-F-C.

Draw all wires tight, cut off and secure ends somehow (I threaded them and used cap nuts).

Now take it all apart, sand as appropriate, finish as desired and reassemble.