

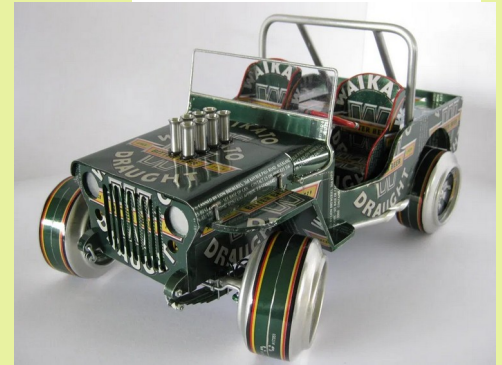
# Read 'awl' about it

## The Lockdown Newsletter from the Cannock Chase Shed

ISSUE No. 9



### This week...



- Shed News.
- Graham's Motoring Memories.
- Robbie the Robot tries bowling...
- A gate for Alfie.
- Metal Models on a Budget.
- Getting Twiggy in the garden.
- Top Tool Tips
- Humour
- New Caption comp, quiz answers.

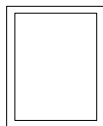


### Contributions welcomed...

Techniques and tips that you have found useful

Anecdotes  
from your  
working life

Photos  
of your  
past  
projects



What was  
your first DIY  
project, and  
how did it go?

Your  
suggestions  
for future  
content



Submissions and suggestions to:  
[annewallbank@talktalk.net](mailto:annewallbank@talktalk.net)  
01543 520452  
07526 636194

Contributions can be collected in  
person (observing social  
distancing) if preferred.

# SHED NEWS

## NEW WEBSITE

We now have a new, updated website, thanks to Pete Ross, who has been very busy on this.

Please take the time to have a look:

<https://www.cannockchaseshed.org.uk/> (just click on the link)

Our new look facebook page can be found [HERE](#)

- please click on the link to check it out.

Why not visit for a chat, or to find out what other members have been up to,

(Our two old facebook pages are still in the process of closing down, but have not gone yet).

## MONEY FOR FREE!

Whenever you buy anything online you could be raising free donations for Cannock Chase Shed with 'easyfundraising.'

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including Amazon, eBay, Argos, Screwfix, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

1. If you would like to support us all you need to do is [CLICK HERE](#) to go to our dedicated 'easyfundraising' page and join for free.
2. Then every time you shop online, go to 'easyfundraising' first to find the retail site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Cannock Chase Shed at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges, every time we reach £15, the funds are transferred into our account. We would be really grateful for the support of yourselves, your family and friends, because the pennies really do add up.

# Motoring Memories

by Graham

Pictured, is an image of a Redex Lubro Charger. At the end of the Sixties, I was an apprentice earning around £8 - £10 a week, so the thought of buying one of these gadgets for my wonderful A35 was out of the question. I think the actual one depicted here could have cost me half a week's earnings or More.

I thought I will make one of these my self instead.



I had just updated my windscreen washer from the manual push button to an electric pump one with a much bigger reservoir, so I thought "that's it! - I'll use the old small reservoir to hold the redex upper cylinder lubricant". Then I thought "I'll use the old manual push button to inject the redex into the manifold".

I fitted a pipe connection into the manifold and connected it to the out port of the manual push button. I primed the button a couple of times before starting the engine, there was quite a lot of smoke coming out of the exhaust pipe, but I thought I hadn't put that much in so I decided to take it for a run round the block. On my way back up the Alum Rock Road to where we lived in Moat House Road there was a number 14 bus coming on the opposite side of the road. I will never forget the look on the driver's face as the bus went past, shock and bewilderment, the smoke was just falling out of the exhaust pipe, hitting the road and then rising in to the air.

Just moments after I turned into our road and turned the engine off, I heard the sirens of a police car. Lucky for me he didn't see who made all that smoke!



As soon as I'd turned the engine off, I opened the bonnet of my car, only to see that *all* the Redex was gone. A whole pint of redex was used in less than a five minute spin around the block. I realised that I had not taken the depression in the manifold into account.

I didn't take it any further.

# Robbie's Latest Skittles Attachment - The Chute

by Barry

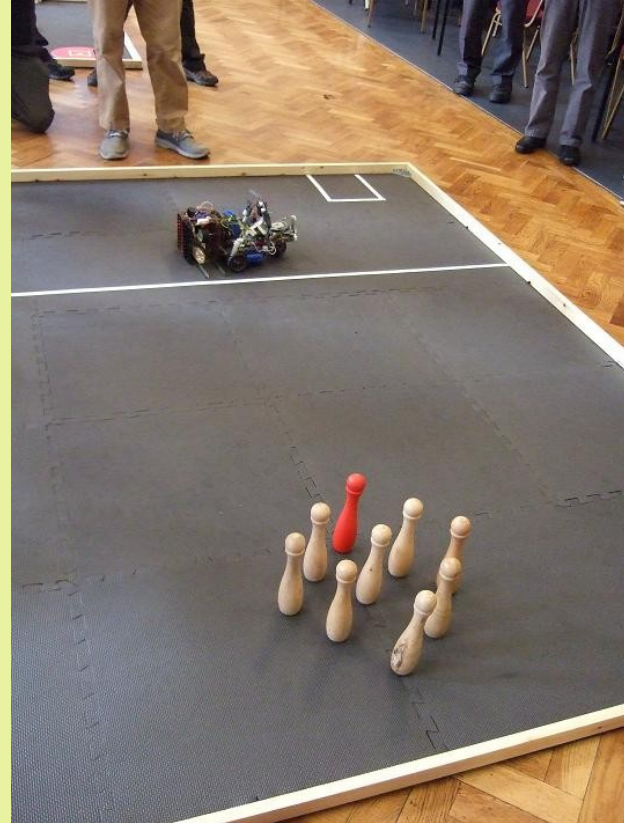
I can hardly contain my excitement about the latest robot gizmo, but I promise you, this is the final exciting advance on Robbie Robot's attachments (unless forced by public pressure of course!)

This attachment is for the Skittles Challenge, so 9 wooden skittles to knock down with a heavy wooden ball.

The photo shows the course, where the robot has to position itself and eject the ball. The ball is quite large and heavy, so ejecting it in some way is quite a challenge for a small robot chassis; hence I've chosen to use gravity to help me here instead.

Made out of hardboard, glued together, the chute stands nearly 1 metre high, the robot chassis can hardly be seen underneath it. It sits on a plastic plate on top of the track driven chassis. I just hope my calculations on "potential energy" and height were correct to give the ball a good thrutch towards the skittles.

For the robot to set the ball off rolling down the slope, it has a very small servo, as used in radio control models, positioned just behind the ball at



the top. The angle of the crank arm on the servo will push the ball forward (hopefully) by remote control. Well, it did with a ping pong ball. The poor little chassis motors really struggle to move it now though, but with the addition of a couple of ball castors near the bottom of the slope, and a little wobbling, it is capable of being positioned to line up with the skittles by remote control.

So, possibly the next task is to revise the chassis using wheels instead of being track driven, and some decent steering too. All in hand now using some electrical copper clad board that Anne kindly donated to me, which widens the chassis for better stability.

I've mounted a couple of motors to the board and done some "hill climb" tests. So far so good. Now for the steering to be created. Watch this space, or maybe not if I've bored you enough. No honestly, this is the last one....unless...

Barry

# A gate for Alfie

by Anne

Our four legged friend Alfie, now approaching 14 years of age, and with arthritis in his back legs, can no longer manage the two sets of steps he has to get down (and up) to reach our back lawn. In order to let him wander freely on the front drive and lawn, which is flat, we had constructed a temporary gate from some old trellis. It was a bit of an eyesore, but it did the job.

Unfortunately, it had to be lifted across to the lawn and back every time we used the car. I was struggling to lift it, but Alfie needs short periods of exercise several times a day. I decided it was time for something with hinges, and as we were not in a position to buy anything, I consulted my trusty (but dwindling) scrap wood collection.

Around two years ago, someone who was having a new roof, kindly advertised their old roof laths on Freecycle. It was heavy going, and took us a couple of journeys, but we loaded them up and took them home.

They needed de-nailing, which was quite a task, (some of them had 20 or more nails to remove), but I do now have a good collection of copper roofing nails, which I'm sure will one day find their purpose. The laths have been used for many projects, and it was tight, but there were just about enough left. Luckily, I had also hoarded a couple of old fence posts, and quite a good selection of hardware. The only thing we had to buy was the hinges



After we'd constructed a couple of simple panels to be our gates, Gav fixed the fence posts to the existing concrete pillars, and we hung them. A miscalculation meant that the gates were a bit too big, so after some discussion, we decided to adjust just one of the gates, to allow more room for reversing past them when they were open. Gav drilled a hole in the tarmac (yes, for some reason we have a tarmac drive under the gravel), and inserted a small section of copper pipe for the bolt to drop into, and we devised a simple wooden latch.



The gate we adjusted is now less structurally sound, and is in need of some extra braces, (it has a definite droop) and we could do with a lip on the left gate for the right one to open onto

To stop anyone from trying to open the gates outwards, but when all's said and done, they open and shut, which is really

all that is required of them, and Alfie is able to go out for a wander as often as he likes without me having to lug two, six foot trellis panels into place.

All in all, the gates cost £2.98, (4 hinges at £1.49 a pair). No one is going to mistake it for a professionally made item, but the difference it has made for Alfie and me already is huge. I may curse my inability to refuse 'scrap'

wood, and the pile of it that threatens to take over the garage, but it has come into it's own yet again.



# Making Metal Models on a Budget

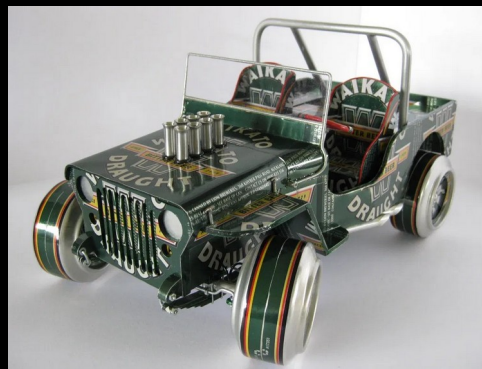
If the copper crafting from Issue 7 is beyond your budget, don't overlook the humble drinks can.



With the top and base removed, what remains is a tube of thin metal, that can be cut with scissors, and shaped with the fingers or a pair of pliers.



It is possible to remove the print, but the pictures below show how it can be used with great effect as an integral part of the design.



# Getting Twiggy in the Garden...

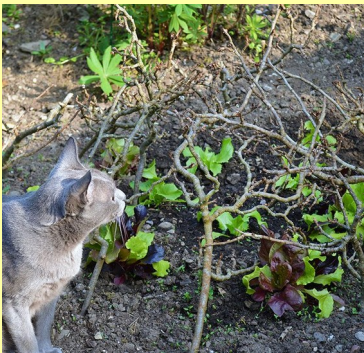
Time to do some pruning?  
Why not make use of the twigs and branches?



Garden furniture  
for free...



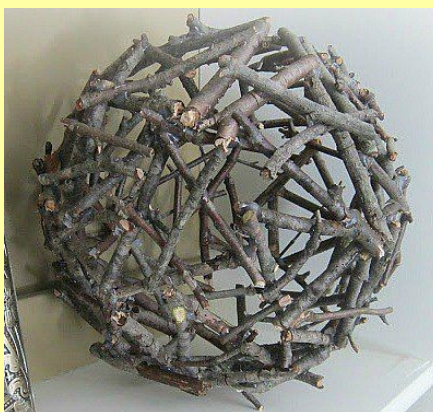
Create  
edgings for  
raised beds  
and borders...



Prevent cats  
from using your  
freshly dug  
beds as a  
toilet...



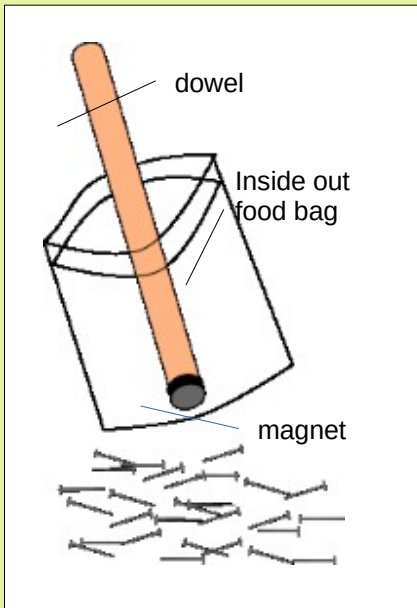
Create trellis and  
plant supports...



...or make something  
artistic...  
Use a glue gun (or brad  
gun) to fix twigs around a  
balloon, or plastic ball.  
When dry, let the air out  
of the ball/burst the  
balloon and pull through  
the gaps. (You will need  
to leave one big gap to  
remove the ball, cover  
with a twig afterwards).



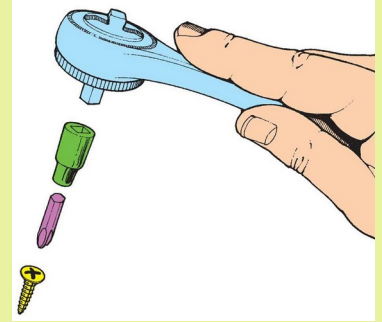
# Top Tool Tips



Got a pile of loose fixings? Attach a magnet (or better still a dish magnet) to the end of a dowel or wood offcut, place an inside out, plastic food bag over the top. Use the magnet to pick up the fixings, then turn the bag right side out to capture them.



Screw stuck? Hold a rubber band over the head of your screwdriver for extra grip.



No room for a screwdriver? Try using a ratchet instead.



Cordless drills aren't just for DIY – a whole range of attachments are available to make light work of cleaning jobs around the house.



Keep dropping the screw? Attach a magnet to your screwdriver.



Use a rubber furniture foot from the pound shop to make a rubber headed hammer, or cut the centre out, for a hammer that won't mark your wood. (Just finish off with a nail punch.



Screwhead full of paint? Tap the screwdriver first, to get it well seated.



Use pieces of hosepipe to grip without leaving marks.



# HUMOUR

I had a happy childhood

My Dad would put me  
inside a tyre and then roll  
me down a hill!

They were Goodyears...

Yesterday I tried  
Blindfold Archery

You don't know what  
you're missing

As my Grandad  
always used to say  
"as one door closes,  
another opens"

Lovely man

Terrible cabinet  
maker...

My Uncle has just  
left me a stately  
home in his will

I've no idea where  
Sod Hall is, but I'm  
just so excited

**A wife, being the romantic  
sort, sent her husband a  
text: "If you are sleeping,  
send me your dreams. If  
you are laughing, send me  
your smile. If you are eating,  
send me a bite. If you are  
drinking send me a sip. If  
you are crying, send me  
your tears. I love you!"  
The husband, typically non-  
romantic, replied: "I am on  
the toilet. Please advise."**

My goal  
was to lose  
10kgs this year...

Only 15 more to go!!

To the person who  
pinched my trainers  
and Hi Vis vest

You can run  
but  
you can't hide!!

Archaeologists  
excavating a tomb in  
Egypt have discovered a  
mummified body  
covered in chocolate  
and hazelnuts.

They believe it to be  
Pharaoh Rocher

I said to the baker  
"How come all your  
cakes are 50p but that  
one's £1.00?"

He said,  
"That's Madeira cake"

# New Caption Competition

Entries by email to:

[annewallbank@talktalk.net](mailto:annewallbank@talktalk.net),

by phone or text on: 07526 636194



## TV Quiz answers

- 1 Bergerac
- 2 Inspector Morse
- 3 The Sweeney
- 4 Z Cars
- 5 Midsomer Murders
- 6 Dixon of Dock Green
- 7 The Bill
- 8 Juliet Bravo
- 9 Rebus
- 10 Vera
- 11 Heartbeat
- 12 Taggart
- 13 Shetland
- 14 Lewis
- 15 DI Banks
- 16 Ashes to Ashes
- 17 Life on Mars
- 18 Prime Suspect
- 19 Hinterland
- 20 Line of Duty
- 21 No Offence
- 22 Blue Murder
- 23 HappyValley
- 24 Broadchurch
- 25 Scott and Bailey
- 26 Luther
- 27 Foyle's War
- 28 Endeavour
- 29 A Touch of Frost
- 30 NewTricks

Congratulations to the winner(s) of the previous caption competition, chosen by Dave Shaw - Anne (and Dave P who submitted something very similar), with:

“Nice shirt Dave – I wondered where all the leftover fabric went...!”



The pictures without clues were: Spender and Marcella