

Testimonials

I have been in the Menshed now approx. 2 and half years since I relocated to Watton and have to say from day 1 have always been welcomed with a good helping of humour, help and general well being The trips etc and in my case the Shutterist {photography} group have helped me to find a fit that works Many thanks to all involved
Grahame Andrews

“Following my retirement, I found I had time on my hands, and had also lost contact with my work colleagues, so I was at a bit of a loose end. One of my wife’s friends mentioned The Wayland Men’s Shed to her and she said why don’t I go along to see what it’s all about. Well it’s the best thing my wife has suggested (except to marry me!!). It has led me to taking part in various activities, like going out with our camera’s taking shots around Norfolk, listening to music with our music appreciation group and just sitting with a cup of coffee putting the world to rights with a group of friends. Of course, WMS offers a lot more than this with our cards & games groups, workshop and computer workshop. It has certainly filled the void left from working and keep my mind working as well as making friendships.”
Neil

I would like to say that the Men's Shed has made a huge difference to my life since I joined a year or so ago. I have made many new friends and it is good to know that there is somewhere to go for a cup of tea and a chat. I am fortunate enough that I do not live alone, but for those that do, it is a life-line. I mix with all different sorts of people that I would never have met otherwise. The outings that you arrange are fantastic and enable people that live on their own to have a day out with friends. I was reluctant to join it initially, but am really glad that I did.
Steve Williams

The Watton men’s shed means so much to myself as I really look forward to my weekly visit. Inside the shed are people who are very supportive towards each other and from all walks of life. Membership has steadily increased over time which makes it a must for the local community. You can also learn computer or woodworking skills and photography trips if you wish. The shed means so much to so many people as some are widowers, lonely and probably don’t have much company in the course of a week. As we say here in Norfolk,” I love my weekly, Men’s shed Mardle.”

John Parling

I joined the Men’s Shed in Watton in the early days. I was encouraged by others, but doubtful about it, given my personality, and lack of talent in DIY! In my several years as a member, my preconceptions have been challenged, and I changed my attitude quickly. Now I welcome my visits to the Shed. What I like, in particular, is the permissive attitude of a hard-working committee that allows me to come and go, as I wish. There is no sense of obligation to participate, and yet there is a welcoming word each time I attend.

The committee have developed a wide range of interests - not just the workshop, helpful and invaluable although it is – if only for the repairs they have completed on my behalf. I am a member of the Men’s Shed Shanty group, and I enjoy singing, enough to mention it in my own e-book; a project for my retirement, when I stopped paid employment as a registered psychologist in April 2024. I am aware of the close connection existing between the Men’s

Shed and other local organisations, including the Town Council, and this means members can contribute to local activities, and build strong social support for festivals, street markets and other day-to-day maintenance projects.

Robin Trewartha

I returned to the UK in October 2017, after spending 15 happy years in France in semi-retirement. We felt that we had "been there, done it" and we were getting quite homesick and really missing the grandchildren. We moved to Norfolk as my son lives here and he also has a granny annex which made the move relatively straight forward. We didn't know anyone in Watton, but I have done a bit of Am Dram so on seeing a note in the local paper, I joined the Wayland Players. Malcolm Trayhorn our present Chairman was already in the group and suggested I come along to the Men's Shed and I have been a member ever since. I have had four strokes but have been very lucky with my aftercare and physiotherapy in that the aftereffects are just a slight limp, mild paralysis in my throat and a slight loss of balance. Like most stroke victims I also have the odd bout of mild depression (or the "Blues" as I prefer to call it) This is where the Men's Shed has been a life saver, it gives you a reason to get out of bed on a Monday morning. Most of our members are retired and some of them have lost their partners or are carers for their partners and the Shed gives them a change of scenery and the chance to forget their problems and have a laugh. We are fortunate to have a very enthusiastic AND competent committee. After a few years in the Old School House, we now have great premises in the Watton Sports and Social Club. I would say that we are a very diverse Men's Shed in that we have so much to offer, from a well fitted out traditional workshop, with a separate computer workshop, to a large social room where we can all put the World to rights, leave our partners in peace for a few hours, have a cuppa, play cards or board games. We also have several sections including music, shanty singing, and photography, and our very competent Chairman and Social Secretary also organises outings and brilliant "Quiz and Chips" nights. We must be doing something right, after COVID we lost a few members, but we are welcoming new members virtually every week, with the current membership standing over 90. I feel very privileged to be a member of the Wayland Men's Shed, long may it continue and prosper.

Les Waller

My attention was brought to the Wayland Men's Shed by a friend who had recently joined. My vision of a men's shed was some sort of large hut with a few work benches and a table in the corner for tea and coffee etc. Somewhere for men, particularly those who were on their own to spend some time making things or simply to have a cuppa and a chat. I couldn't have been more wrong as The Wayland Men's Shed is a vibrant meeting place where you can join in the various card or domino games or simply sit and chat with a group of interesting people. Of course there is also a really good workshop and a computer room where you can utilise your skills. There is also a music group, Shantymen, Shutterists and plenty of organised trips and quiz nights so all tastes are catered for.

But I think the most important aspect of the shed as far as I am concerned is the way in which all members are made welcome by those who organise the place and ensure that nobody is left on their own. It is done in the most low key and sensitive manner and we should all be thankful that there are people within our ranks who are prepared to spend a lot of their own time to make sure we are all catered for and that The Wayland Men's Shed is somewhere worth coming to.

Bill