



WAYLAND MEN'S SHED



www.waylandmensshed.com

Watton Town Meeting 20th April 2021

Wayland Men's Shed – Report for 2020 - 2021

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 concerns and the restrictions put in place by the Government, Wayland Men's Shed (WMS) has not been able to function as we have previously done. Our doors have remained closed for our workshop and social meeting room since the beginning of 2020. However, thanks to the grant given to us by Watton Town Council prior to lockdown, we have renovated our kitchen area and secured Wi-Fi capability for the building.

Although we had not been able to use these improvements for long before lockdown, we are looking forward to the enhanced facilities as soon as we can open our doors again.

Thanks to the continued support of Watton Town Council and Voluntary Norfolk Better Together programme our committee has been working behind the scenes to offer support to our members and also prepare for when we can open.

Our computer section has been able to continue with some of their work in renovating and stripping down unwanted, donated computers. This has been done by dropping them off at members houses and thus assisting to keep several members occupied.

Several members are in regular contact via Zoom, for which we have an upgraded package to allow for longer meetings. More members are joining in this facility each time and it has assisted in keeping in communication with each other.

There is a photography group that holds a weekly competition and also have regular zoom classes in photography tips and the use of software programmes to enhance pictures.

A monthly newsletter is sent out to all members keeping them up-to-date with what is happening and the latest advice re covid restrictions.

Some members of the committee have been making periodic calls to members to check on their well-being and establish any needs or welfare issues.

We have agreed a Safeguarding Policy as the result of issues arising from Zoom meetings between Heads of Men's Shed's in Norfolk. I am attending the on-line Safeguarding training programme being offered by Better Together Norfolk with a view to ensure that we have full awareness of issues relating to vulnerable adults.

The Future and Ambitions

The donation received from the Mayors charities will give us more financial security at a time where we have no income and only a one-year agreement to occupy our current premises.

We are hoping that in the coming months we will be able to offer the members a safe and welcoming meeting place once again. We are, however conscious of the need for caution, especially with the vast majority of members being older and some with underlying health issues. We have put together a risk assessment and plans for social distancing within the workshop and meeting room. We have purchased PPE equipment, temperature checking equipment and cleansing products in preparation. A check with members has revealed that all but a few have had at least one vaccination with the more elderly and vulnerable having had two.

Once things become clearer as to infection rates and ability to relax restrictions, we hope to provide a full programme of activities and social events as previously.

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MKT – March 2021

Submit to WTC by 6th April 2021

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