



WAYLAND MEN'S SHED



www.waylandmensshed.com

Watton Town Meeting 16th April 2024

Wayland Men's Shed – Report for 2023 – 2024

This report covers the period from January 2023 up until the present day.

Wayland Men's Shed has continued to grow in terms of activities, membership, and success in meeting its aims as set out in our constitution, which are:

1. To reduce social isolation in men.
2. To promote men's good health and wellbeing for the benefit of the local community. In particular persons over the age of 18 or who are retired, unemployed, recovering from ill health, social issues or who may simply wish to make use of the facilities offered in a safe and friendly environment.
3. To provide a physical space for persons to take part in creative and/or recreational activities that benefit themselves and the community and includes the opportunity to share skills or learn new ones, to practice interests or develop new ones, to socialise and to engage in the wider society by helping with community-based projects undertaken by the WMS.

In January 2023 we had xx members, and we currently have 92 members.

This year we have sadly lost 4 members.

Our Shed is run as a non-charity community group which is run by a committee. We hold committee meetings every month where we discuss issues and make appropriate decisions relating to the running of the Shed and future projects.

We hold social sessions on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9am to 12 noon where up to 40 members enjoy each other's company over a coffee, tea, and biscuits. Also popular at these meetings are the playing of contract whist, Rummikub, cribbage, dominoes, and Mah-Jong to name but a few.

Our woodworking and computer workshops are open on Monday and Thursday mornings with several members involved in projects.

The woodwork team has completed many jobs around the sports centre as well as requests from members of the community. This includes Owl, Hedgehog and Bird boxes, a garden gate, and many other projects.

The computer team has taken in a considerable number of donated computers and printers for repair or scrap. They have been highly successful and the work they have done not only gives members a sense of achievement but also brings in some funding.

We have set up other subgroups which members enjoy. These include:

- The Shutterists, a camera group who go out on regular trips to interesting places and hold a monthly competition
- The Music Group, a group who meet once a month to listen to a piece of music chosen by each participant which is judged and scored to find the most popular for that session.
- The Car Pub Club, a group who enjoy visiting pubs to enjoy the food and score their experience.
- A Shanty group, a group who have formed and perform at different venues



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We hold regular social events and outings throughout the year which also include family members and guests, and these include:

- Quiz & Chips nights
- A Christmas meal at Barn Ruche
- Cheese & Wine evenings
- Mulled Wine & Mince Pie morning
- A summer BBQ
- Ten- Pin bowling at Strikes bowling alley in Dereham
- A trip to Bletchley Park
- A trip to Duxford air show
- A trip to the Battle of Britain memorial flight visitor centre
- An afternoon tea on a steam train from Dereham
- A trip to Yarmouth dog racing
- A trip to the Cromer Pier Show
- A trip to the Birmingham Military Tattoo

We assist at the road closures at Town events such as Antiques Fair and the Christmas market. We have assisted the Youth football club by painting their club room, we attend the Wayland Partnership meetings to report on what we are doing plus we have a member on the Norfolk Men's Shed steering group.

Last year we were nominated for Shed of the year and out of over 900 sheds nationally, our shed was shortlisted, and two members were invited to the House of Lords for a presentation. Although we were not selected as the ultimate winner we were presented with a certificate as a shortlisted Shed.

We were also presented with a certificate and cup from the Watton and District Rotary Club for their annual award, "Group Vocational Award 2023"

We are grateful to the Co-op who supply us with tea and coffee plus they have chosen us as one of two recipients of their annual fund-raising projects.

We are also appreciative of Watton Town Council for a grant of £500 towards our rental costs.