Wareham Area Men's Shed

Making Community

Building skills, friendship & belonging since 2018



Help Us To Help Them

New Community Workshop Funding Appeal 2026/7

Our Story

A place to belong

Wareham Area Men's Shed is a registered charity that was founded in 2018 to tackle a simple but serious problem: too many men — retired, bereaved, unwell, or otherwise cut off from daily structure — were isolated, with nowhere to go and no one to talk to.

We offer somewhere to belong: a workshop where members meet twice a week, work together on woodcraft projects, and rebuild friendship, purpose and confidence side by side.





In 2026 we opened a women's section — a separate, women-led group operating under the WAMS umbrella, extending the same model of peer support and shared purpose to women in our community.

Today we support over 50 members. Many say the Shed changed their lives. One told us, simply: ***"I wouldn't be here without it."***

We are now seeking to build our own permament community workshop, after 8 years of renting and outgrowing temporary accommodation. Planning permission has been granted for a new purpose built site on the Wareham & Swanage Rugby Ground & we are seeking £200,000 funding from our community & contacts. This brochure introduces "the Shed", our impact, the project & our ask.

Can you now help us to help them?

Our Impact

Across our community

What our members build, they give away.

Every job WAMS members undertake is a gift to someone else — a school, a church, a charity, a parish council or simply someone in our community. Since 2018 we've completed several hundred projects across Wareham and Purbeck, entirely through volunteer time.

"The Men's Shed was a godsend for us. They did an amazing job building a traverse wall for our students, used daily to help them regulate."
Helen Bradley, Deputy Head, Harbour Special Education School, Bovington





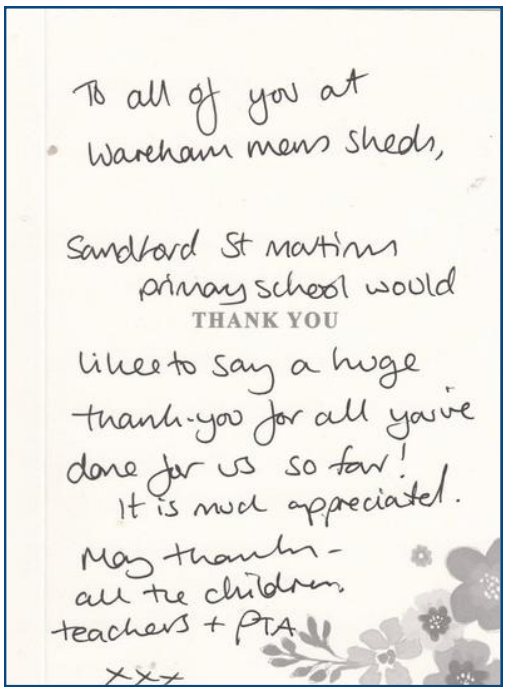
"The Men's Shed has become an integral part of our community. Over the years, these dedicated individuals have done various projects - their collaborative spirit and skilful workmanship have made a noticeable impact on the locality." Liz Maidment, Clerk, East Stoke Parish Council

"It has been a tremendous community effort & has put smiles on so many children's faces." — Suzanne Holiday, Wareham St Mary Primary School





"The Men's Shed team transformed the outside of our church... The church is now visibly welcoming and beautiful." — Vikki Smith, St Edward the Martyr Church



Our Impact

Beneficiaries to Date

Are too many to fully list, but include...

Schools & Education

Wareham St Mary Primary
Sandford School
Stoborough School
Ladybirds Playschool
Harbour Special Needs School
Wareham Library

Councils

Wareham Town Council
Corfe Castle Parish Council
Arne Parish Council
Church Knowle Parish Council
East Stoke Parish Council
Dorset County Council

Charities

Purbeck Youth Foundation
Livability Holton Lee
Care Dorset
Dementia Friendly Purbeck
Prime Time Kids Club
Various Cubs & Scouts

Churches & Churchyards

St Edward the Martyr
St Nicolas Arne
Wareham St Martins
Lady St Mary Cemetery

Conservation & Wildlife

RSPB Arne
Birds of Poole Harbour
Dorset Small Mammals Group
Wild Bird Rescue Dorset
Blue Pool Wareham
Sealife Weymouth

Plus

Dozens more bird boxes, hedgehog houses, benches, planters & repairs for individuals & groups in the Purbecks. Even penguin nesting boxes & totem poles!

We aim to be a force for good within our community, especially for school children, young people, disadvantaged groups and wildlife.

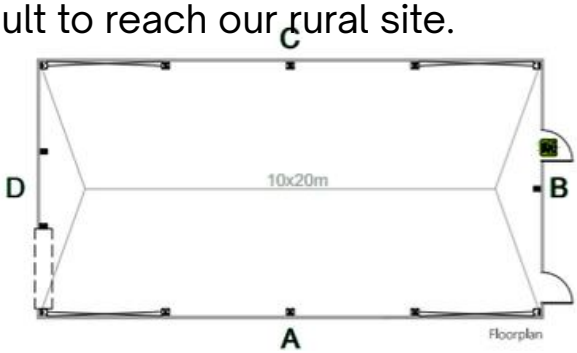
The Project

New Community Workshop

A permanent home, at last

Since inception, WAMS has rented it's premises. We previously discovered the fragility of renting, when we were unexpectedly served notice of eviction from our inaugral base which jeopardised our existence. Following a public media appeal, we moved to a barn in a fruit farm several miles outside Wareham. And now, our membership has outgrown this site, and we long for more space, more security of tenure, and the ability to design a great long term space from the ground up.

We have secured planning permission from Dorset Council to build a permanent, purpose-built community workshop (20m x 10m) on land granted by Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club, Bestwall Road — within walking distance of Wareham town centre, removing a real barrier for members who find it difficult to reach our rural site.





The design is being finalised now, with professional help being bought in to guide the process, and tenders being sought. We explored building our own structure, but due to material cost, planning obligations and speed, a pre-fabricated structure, equivalent to a light industrial unit, has been selected and approved by planning. (Illustrative design above).

Going to the rugby ground also brings us back into the Wareham town, making us more visible and accessible for members and visitors, and reducing car journeys and traffic.

A secure home means more than safety — it means we can grow. Two or three sessions a week becomes four or five. More capacity, more sessions, more members, more community projects delivered. More possibility of new groups and initiatives, including in collaboration with local youth services.

Groundworks are expected to start in mid 2027, with completion later that year.

The Project

How you can help

1. Contribute Financially

Total project cost:	Approximately £200,000 (zero-rated for VAT)
Already raised:	£42,500 from our own members & local supporters
Still needed:	£137,500
Intended Sources:	Local individuals & organisations, national funding bodies, family trusts.
Benefactors:	Donations of £5,000 or more will be recognised on a plaque within the finished workshop.
Provisional Costings*:	• Foundation: £40,000 • Building purchase & installation: £125,000 • Fit-out (inc elec, plumbing, ventilation): £25,000 • Professional Fees: £10,000

2. Donate Services

If you have either professional skills, or access to building materials or resources, which you could offer at a discounted or donation rate, we'd love to hear from you.

- Planners, builders, plumbers, electricians, fundraisers are all needed!

3. Be An Advocate

Please help us spread the word - you may know someone who can help, or who has access to funding sources or family trusts.
You may also be able to get us speaking opportunities to share this exciting community project with others.

We've grown through kindness to date - and anticipate this will continue!

*Subject to contract & commercial finalisation - further details can be provided

Find out more

In person and online

1. If you're at all interested or intrigued, we'd love to show you around. Come along to a session and meet the Shedders to hear their stories in person.

2. Our Facebook group has a comprehensive visual list of our projects we've completed. Search for "Wareham Area Mens Shed" group, or scan the QR code.

3. We also have a YouTube channel, where Shedders describe how the Shed has saved them from despair, some shed jokes, and even our "Here for You" song.

4. Become a Shedder! We're always on the lookout for new members, from all backgrounds and all skill levels. Men-only and women-only sessions run each week, and we offer a great place to meet others, learn new skills, make a meaningful contribution to our community. We are wheelchair accessible, and have previously supported others with physical and mental health challenges.



Thank You



Wareham Area Men's Shed

Registered Charity No. 1210615

1 Stowell Crescent, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4PT

warehamshed@gmail.com | 01929 792591

www.warehamshed.org.uk

Kindly printed by Tradewind Graphics