



**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 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 permanent 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*

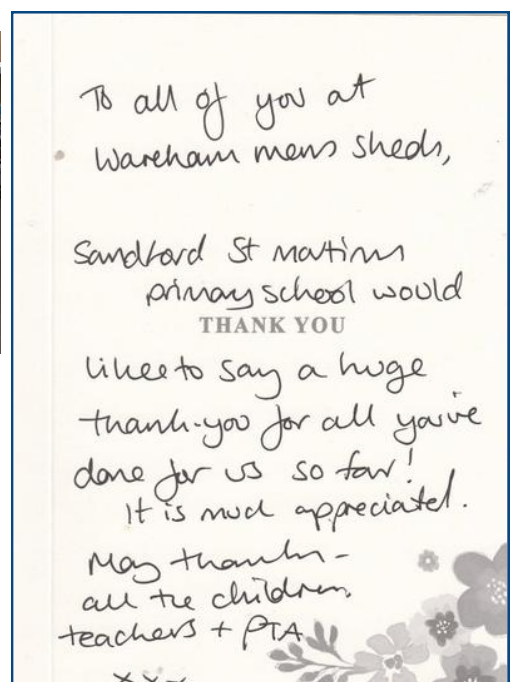


*"The Men's Shed has become an integral
part of our community. Over the years,
these dedicated individuals have done
various projects - their collaborative spirit
and skilful workmanship have made a
noticeable impact on the locality."* Liz
Maidment, Clerk, East Stoke Parish
Council

*"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



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

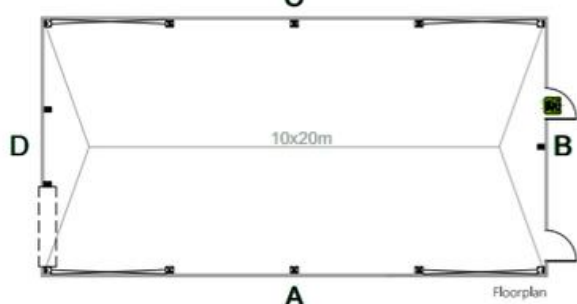
New Community Workshop



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 inaugural 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 early 2027, with completion later that year.

The Project

How you can help



1. Finances

- Total project cost: Approximately £200,000 (zero-rated for VAT)
- Already raised: £26,000, from our own members & early donations
- Still needed: £174,000
- 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. 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. Advocacy

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 project with others.

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

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

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