

BlewShed (Blewbury Community Shed)

An update on activities over the last year.

Following two extensive shutdowns for the Pandemic, BlewShed slowly re-opened during the Autumn of 2021. Since then members have been returning, depending on their personal view of the risk of mixing.

Membership is slowly growing, with a healthy number of regulars keeping the Shed busy during our twice weekly sessions. Total membership is currently around 28. Our monthly club nights are now back in place, offering talks and demonstrations, plus hands-on tryout sessions.

The equipment available to members continues to grow, and now supports some fairly complex projects.

The role of Community Sheds is often misunderstood; they are not a 'repair shop'. Rather than fix things, they share the skills needed for making, repairing or re-purposing. In today's world, the art of making things by hand has fallen away. A Shed can pass on the extensive skills and experience that members have accumulated.

The work undertaken at BlewShed is a mix of personal or collaborative builds and community projects. The latter includes a number for St Michaels Church, including pew plaques, rood screen repairs, carved ceiling fittings, and brass staff furniture. We also collaborated with another Shed to design an air cleaning system to give virus-free workspaces.

Sheds like BlewShed are not just to make and assist others making; a primary function is fellowship, providing an accessible meeting space for sharing interests. As part of a national, and international, movement, the role of Sheds in this area is well recognised and documented. Indeed, there is a growing trend for facilitating social prescribing.

We are still on the upward path; growing numbers will permit more weekly sessions and the possibility of special interest groups. Such growth will be organic- evolving to meet the needs of members.