

In March 2019, having been persuaded by his wife, Chris Sherwood invited a small group of people to a meeting to look at the possibility of setting up a Men's Shed in Uckfield. The group had its first meeting in April 2019 and over the next few months they laid the foundations for the setting up of the Shed and searched for suitable premises. In August an open meeting at the Alma Arms was called that was attended by 14 interested people. It was agreed by the meeting to establish a Shed and to begin meeting in a local venue whilst the search for premises continued.

The first Shed meeting was held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in the pavilion at West Park and was attended by 10 men who discussed what they wanted from the Shed and the steps that needed to be taken. These meetings continued into October by which time we managed to get agreement with the landlord at the Alma Arms to make use of the barn at the pub as a workshop. Work started in late October to clear the area, replace the floor and set up the workshop. With many donations of tools from local people the Shed was ready to open on November 19<sup>th</sup>.



The Shed membership increased and we started to make goods to sell although the size of the premises meant that we were restricted in the numbers who could work safely and what we could offer. As we moved into March 2000 the search for larger premises continued with a workshop on a farm in Framfield being found. However, Covid 19 struck, the lockdown began and we had to end our negotiations and close the Shed.

We continued to meet through the lockdown via Zoom and, thankfully, we were able to reconvene on July 20<sup>th</sup> albeit in the open air in the garden at Streatfeild House.



We continued to meet outdoors, being blest with good weather and discovered that the premises in Framfield were still available. We quickly agreed to take on the new location and moved the Shed to Framfield on 17<sup>th</sup> August. We quickly set up the new workshops and recreational area, ensuring that we were Covid compliant. However, after only a couple of months we were forced to shut again as a new lockdown began. We re-opened on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and enjoyed 3 weeks of making reindeer and snowmen before we entered the 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown.

