Colchester North Men's Shed
Report and balance sheets for year 2025

During 2025 The Shed continued primarily as a community support organisation supporting members and preventing them becoming isolated. We remain open to admitting members with greater life challenges particularly those with special needs, as long as they have their own additional support with them during sessions. This year no applications with these additional needs have applied. The membership has ended the year at 52 and regular attendees have increased to around 20, with 24 on some occasions, mainly on Tuesdays with Thursdays also attracting increased numbers. These numbers are capable of being supervised properly but have reached a point where taking on new entrants has been stopped for the moment and a waiting list created.

During the year, two members died, one from illness (cancer), another was killed in a tragic road accident. Contributions were provided to the designated charitable organizations, and certain members attended the memorial services.

The Shed has maintained its charity status and met its obligations to The Charities Commission.
We have also maintained our link with Essex Sheds and representatives from our Shed attend their meetings to keep abreast of any developments and we continue to give advice to new sheds in communities around us. Financially our shed is moving forward on a very sound basis

This year the Shed has not sought or received any grants; therefore the accounts do not show any expenditure of restricted money (money given for specific purposes) and no restricted money has been carried forward into the opening balance for 2026. The inner room built by Greater Anglia Railways has continued to be an asset and made the shed a much more usable facility and together with the kitchen facilities has resulted in a routine of refreshment breaks which suits the members and supports our aims of preventing them from becoming isolated by providing opportunities for social interaction. During the year the snooker table in the room has been used occasionally and is a way of extending the use of the shed beyond wood working projects, to other ways of supporting the members. The Shed also continued having breakfasts out at the Jubilee Café on a regular basis and two outings were held, one to the Regent Theatre in Ipswich to see the Illegal Eagles and another to visit the construction of a Saxon Long Ship in Woodbridge, both added to the aims of the Shed. Towards the end of the year several barbeques have been held in the rear outside seating area, this has been aided by the mild Autumn weather and has also been a great success in furthering the social side of the shed. During one of the Barbeques a short promotional film was made, featuring music and singing by the members, this was reported in the local news.

A project to change the character and look of the corporate clothing with an updated logo was completed early in the year and majority of members have purchased and wear the clothing. The Wi-Fi installed last year has become essential for members to use their communication systems effectively and has justified the modest cost. The toilet facilities were also upgraded last year with a new splashback and a larger compost toilet in an upgraded enclosure with lighting this has proved more adequate but with the increasing numbers of members further improvement is being considered.

The shed purchased a band saw from the Brightlingsea shed, to increase availability of this popular piece of equipment for the increased number of members. Other than that, the shed is coping with the equipment it has. Constant use of the equipment we have, such as planers and saws require steady expenditure on replacement blades and other parts which are expensive, but our current funds and income cover this adequately. The wood burner continues to be used and proved of some value in heating part of the workshop, it also uses some of the scrap timber generated by project work. Experiments with hot air heating in the refreshment room, fuelled with domestic heating oil have been continued, using portable containers for the supply of fuel. Installation of a larger tank is being considered, as this is cheaper than using electricity. During the year the bench layout was rationalised with a set of hand tools and measuring devices provided and kept with each workstation and later in the year the floor, which had some holes and drainage channels related to its previous use as a milking parlour, was levelled and painted to reduce trip hazards and make cleaning easier.
Further improvements were also made to improve air quality by the purchase of dust extraction equipment.

Shed members continued to repair and make all sorts of items for their own and community use, ranging from bird boxes to garden benches. further dormouse tubes and boxes were made for Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit and this year four projects have been undertaken involving construction of farm type gates. Some frames for display by the British Legion and a large glass display case were also made. These involved several members and provided them with activity over a period.

Financial governance remains unchanged and continues to be a team effort involving several committee members as well as the Treasurer; these include the Chairman and Shed Safety Supervisors who attend most sessions. Members pay their own session fees, deposit the money in a container on a desk by the entrance and record their attendance on a sheet. The Treasurer removes the money weekly and leaves only a small float. In the absence of the Treasurer small purchases are reimbursed by appointed committee members and the receipts left in the container. E.g. Milk for refreshments etc. Larger purchases are paid directly by the Treasurer when he attends, or reimbursement is made to the purchaser by using bank transfers. In the Treasurer's absence from The Shed, this can also be done by e-mail application. There is a format for the purchase of items of expenditure which can be discussed informally before purchase. This way of working is applied without undue interference and has worked reasonably well to-date without any real problems. This is largely due to everyone's honesty and goodwill.

A balance sheet of financial assets for 2025 is attached as appendix 1.
The shed also has material assets in the form of tools, machines, equipment and a stock of timber for which a schedule of assets is being compiled.



Barry Unger
Trustee and Hon. Treasurer.

Appendix 1

**North Colchester Men's Shed**
**Financial Summary Dec 2025**

| **Income** | | **Expenditure** | | code |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Subscriptions | 1030.00 | Tools, equipment and spares | 2771.39 | 1 |
| session Fees | 3978.00 | Timber | 941.50 | 2 |
| Donations | 354.50 | Fittings and fixings | 397.59 | 3 |
| Sales | 1672.25 | Domestic | 601.81 | 4 |
| Projects, clothing, gates, theatre, Malcome, Legion Frame, 2nd gates | | Paint, glue and filler | 622.31 | 5 |
| Gate Corton, Stanmore project, Jim | 3199.00 | Insurance | 235.90 | 6 |
| **Total** | **10233.75** | Electricity | 877.36 | 7 |
| | | Other, electrical work, clothing, Theatre, Malcome, Glass cabinet, Jim | 2221.64 | 8 |
| | | Health and Safety equipment | 668.56 | 9 |
| **Income over expenditure** | **895.69** | **Total** | **9338.06** | |

**Funds held**

| | |
|---|---|
| B Fwd from 2024 | 19726.6 |
| Net income | 895.69 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total** | **20622.29** |
| | |
| **Location** | |
| Cash at bank | 20522.26 |
| Petty cash at shed | 100.03 |
| **TOTAL** | **20622.29** |