



# Trustees' Annual Report 2023-2024

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024



*The Midmar Men's Shed in summer 2023 with local landmark hill Bennachie in the background.*

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*A raised planter created and delivered*

## CHARITY CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Charity Name</b>	Midmar Men's Shed
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	SC049095
<b>Address</b>	c/o The Midmar Hall Midmar Inverurie AB51 7PQ
<b>Governing Document</b>	Midmar Men's Shed Constitution (adopted 11/12/18)
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://midmar.uk">https://midmar.uk</a>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:midmarmensshed@gmail.com">midmarmensshed@gmail.com</a>
<b>Trustees</b>	Chairperson: Nigel Bennett (Gordon Gauld after Jan-2024) Treasurer: Chris Beetham Secretary: Paul Thain (Nigel Bennett after Jan-2024)
<b>Management Committee</b>	Jim Allan Peter Woodhead Rob Ferguson

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Midmar Men's Shed was established after seeing the success of other Men's Sheds in the surrounding larger towns, with the aim of bringing similar activities closer to our remote area. Midmar is 10-15 miles from the nearest towns and villages. With relatively limited facilities, the area of Midmar relies on a strong network of social clubs and community initiatives.

As stated in our Constitution, the aims of the Shed are:

*(a) To provide recreational facilities or organise recreational activities aimed particularly - though not exclusively - at men, with the aim of promoting their social inclusion and generally improving their conditions of life.*

*(b) To promote good health and wellbeing to its members through active participation and, from time to time, providing opportunities for relevant health organisations to raise awareness of good health strategies for the benefit of members or the community.*

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy further aims to:

- provide a supportive single sex environment for men to socialise together, with the opportunity to voluntarily work on purposeful projects learning and sharing skills; and
- promote the mental, physical, emotional and economic wellbeing of people in our community.



*Rest stop on one of the Shed hike's*

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

Our governing document is the *Midmar Men's Shed Constitution*. This sets out our charity's purpose, structure, and describes how we will operate. Our Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity complies with the rules of the Constitution.

The process for recruiting and appointing Trustees is described in the Constitution. In summary, there can be between three and ten members of the 'Management Committee', which includes the three Trustees (Chairperson, Treasurer, & Secretary). Trustee and Management Committee positions are elected during the AGM. To best reflect the needs and wishes of the local community, members of the Management Committee must be existing Shed Members, and permanently reside within five miles of The Midmar Hall.

The full Midmar Men's Shed Constitution can be viewed at: <https://midmar.uk/information-about-us/documents/>

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

### COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Shed has been running various community and social activities, which have expanded beyond just the members of our shed.

- **Walking Group** - Around once a month our members lead a group that venture out for a ramble; these are mostly short or medium length walks that explore local areas of interest. Recent routes have been around Durriss, Aboyne, Tarland and Pitfichie..
- **Repair Shed** - One of our longest-running initiatives; our shedders run regular 'Open Shed' repair shops, where residents can bring in anything they'd like us to repair, or donate items that can be up-cycled and re-sold. Items we've repaired this calendar year include: a bench,

garden table, various strimmers, chain saws and a wide variety of garden tools. Quite often now folk just pop in for assistance when we are open (or not!), rather than specifically when we have a Repair Shed.



*A repaired lawn mower (left), new fork handles fitted (centre), Footpath maintenance (right)*

We continue to work closely with the neighbouring Midmar Village Hall, as our Shed members undertake some of the maintenance and upkeep of The Hall's building and grounds. The main work in the year 2023-2024 has been:

- Replacing some slates on the roof to stem a few leaks
- Major redecoration and laid new floor in one of the meeting rooms (the Jubilee Room)
- Routine tasks include cutting the grass, gardening, general DIY

Smaller bits of more general community work have included:

- We presented the Men's Shed organisation to the primary school pupils. This involved a bit of history of the Men's Shed movement from its origins in Australia to its present spread across Scotland. The main aims of the SMSA and the Midmar Men's Shed were discussed.
- Repairs to a gate and a fence at the local Primary school for the safety and security of the kids.
- Creation of some new storage shelving for the primary school
- Clearing, maintenance, and installation of new local footpaths has become a regular occurrence, with a greater push from the community to get people outside and active.



*Above: Rotten timbers replaced by the Midmar Men's Shed on a bridge at the local Stillwater Fishery*

## SHED ACTIVITIES

While we continue to receive donations of items to either service and sell, or use ourselves, the main focus has been making progress on the new Shed location.

The site was previously levelled, with this year seeing the perimeter foundation being dug, prepared and laid. This work relied on donations for machinery and materials, with the Shed members doing the majority of the work (with help setting out, and finishing the blockwork).

This has been a very valuable team exercise, with a lot of learning and knowledge sharing along the way. This is creating a significant level of interest and buy-in.



*Perimeter foundation dug (left), Concrete is poured (centre), and the First Block is laid (right)*

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Many of our activities outlined herein are directly associated with our objective of supporting the maintenance of health and wellbeing; these include activities at our weekly meetings (Friday mornings and Tuesday evenings), including learning new skills and general social interaction as well as a timeout for coffee (or tea for those who prefer). We also have a monthly walk taking advantage of the great outdoors and local scenery (it's quite spectacular). We advertise what we do in the local community magazine promoting new membership.

Regarding non-members, and the local community a key activity is supporting the maintenance of the local paths to ensure accessibility to the extensive network; related to this the Shed was directly involved in the replacement of the local wooden footbridge across the Milton burn.

Shed member activities involve using a variety of equipment with the potential for harm and so is usually operated by members with relevant knowledge and experience; however necessary training is provided whenever anyone wants to learn how to use an item of equipment they are unfamiliar with. Relevant personal protective equipment is used.

We have started construction of a new shed and needed to comply with The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 which are intended to ensure risks are effectively identified and mitigated. The necessary risk assessments have been affected and recorded in the required CDM Regulations documentation starting with the Pre-Construction Information, that is developed into the Health and Safety File. The Construction Phase Plan addresses risks directly associated with the physical site activity.

## FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

With our main goal being to build a permanent Shed, and the costs of building materials rising faster than we can realistically raise the funds for - our efforts in this area have switched from traditional cash-fundraising, to approaching established companies within the construction industry, with a view to them donating surplus materials and/or manpower.

The response to our open-hand requests has been truly incredible, with a significant cross-section of local companies donating materials left over from other projects, or simply off the shelf and delivered for free. A list of our main sponsors may be found on our website.

As witnessed by the images, we have made significant progress with the new Shed, though all will ultimately be hidden below ground.



*Progress as at the end of February 2024*

As a Shed-adjacent project, we embarked on the second phase of the Comers Footbridge replacement over the Milton Burn. In the summer of 2021, The Shed assisted in repairing the first half of the structure, this second piece of work will strengthen the remaining section of the bridge, which has been weakened through ageing materials, and being battered by recent storms. With a combination of grants from Paths-For-All, Aberdeenshire Council and the Community Council, then with a significant addition of funds by local donors and benefactors, sufficient funding was in place to procure and prepare the materials to replace the wet span. It was a fantastic community effort, coordinated by the Men's Shed.



*Old wood removed, new main bearers in place (left), New span finished complete with new safety wire (right)*

We also continue to see more traditional cash fundraising coming in through a variety of sources; direct cash donations, donations for repairing items, sale of repaired & donated equipment, as well as bespoke requests, bags of kindling, and smaller items.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and Expenditure Account for period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

### INCOME

	£
Donations In – Crombie Trust Grant	1200.00
Fundraising	799.59
Trading	500.00
Membership Fees	190.00
Bank Interest	<u>142.97</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>2832.56</u></b>

### EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions	25.00
Professional Fees	0.00
Fundraising Expenses	31.46
Trading Expenses	38.40
General Expenses	560.34
Expenses	680.45
Donations Out	0.00
Fixed Asset Purchases	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>655.20</u></b>

<b>Cash</b>	£
Opening Bank Balance	2,612.62
Net Surplus / (Loss) for the Year	2177.36
<b>Closing Cash Balance</b>	<b><u>4,789.98</u></b>
Comers Bridge Restricted Fund Cash	2,520.55
<b>Total Cash Balance</b>	<b><u>7,310.53</u></b>

## RESERVES POLICY

Our ongoing operating costs are relatively small: we have limited overheads, and no paid staff so the policy is to ensure there is always a minimum of £500 in the Bank..

The only known risk relates to the cost of electricity which is presently provided by the Midmar Hall.

Building works have commenced on the new Shed, to replace the temporary, reclaimed, portacabins currently used. The approach will be to largely perform the work ourselves using reclaimed materials as far as practicable minimising the associated environmental footprint and building cost. The building works are broken down into discrete packages with each package only being commenced when funding is available. The first package is the foundations which once completed can be safely left in readiness for the next stage. Local businesses have provided, free of charge, all required plant and materials for the foundations which are in progress

The Shed is, effectively, managing (on behalf of the local community) the replacement of the wet span half of the Milton Burn wooden footbridge which links the villages of Midmar and Comers (half of the structure has already been placed), This will be cost neutral having dedicated fund raising to cover the material costs (labour is through volunteers).

No grants have been paid, nor any disbursement made to any trustee, or shed member, except to reimburse shed purchases where valid receipts are available.

Receipts and Payments sub categories extended for 2023/2024 accounts (hence some zero values for 2022/2023 period)

Accounts have been subject to Independent Examination

Prepared by: C Beetham - Treasurer

## FUTURE PLANS

We continue to focus on the construction and creation of our new Shed, in conjunction with supporting the local community through our traditional Shed activities.

- Finish the foundation levelling
- Complete the drainage pipework and electrical ducting (sub-floor)
- Source walls and roof to make the structure wind and watertight

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone that has helped us with their support, commitment, and generosity; without which we would not be able to keep our Shed going.

- **Charlie Ferries** for assisting with the blockwork
- **Miller Plant** for the provision of digging machinery
- **Hunter Construction** for steel mesh and many other items
- **Breedon** – for concrete blocks
- **Jewson** – for sand and cement
- **JKR Quarries and Concrete** – for concrete
- **Keith Collie** - for crushed rock
- **Private Donors** - for insulation, tools, and materials donations to the Shed.
- All other individuals & members that have generously donated their time, energy, and money.



*Our current, temporary shed at dusk*

## DECLARATION

Signed on behalf of the charity Trustees:

**SIGNATURE:**

*Gordon Gauld*

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**PRINT:**

Gordon Gauld

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**ROLE:**

Chairman

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**DATE:**

28<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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