

Monthly Newsletter for August 2026

To contact the on-duty Shed Safety Supervisor call: 01569-785617.

An audio version of this newsletter will shortly be available here: [SDMS website](#) | [Facebook](#).



Announcements

~ Following on from being informed that we were the winning shed in our Region for the Scottish Men's Shed of the Year awards, we are now in the final three for the overall Shed of the Year award. The team from Scottish Men's Shed Association (SMSA) visited us on Thursday 30th July to prepare a video based on our application. The winning shed will be announced at the SMSA AGM on the 28th August in Perth.

Please note that the winner will be decided by individual members of the SMSA voting for their shed of choice. We need your vote, and that of your family and friends, as the rules of the election allow for them to also become members, and we are up against Glasgow Shed 'Milngavie & Bearsden' and Irvine Shed in Ayrshire.

Please see the links below. You still have time to cast your vote before noon on Tuesday 18th August. Only two simple steps:

1. If you haven't already done so, join the Scottish Men's Shed Association here:

<https://scottishmsa.org.uk/individual/>

2. Vote here: <https://scottishmsa.org.uk/smsotyawards/>

Dates for your diary

Friday	28 th August	Shed of the Year Awards in Perth
Saturday	29 th August	Celebration BBQ - Shed
Sunday	30 th August	Stonehaven Harbour Festival
Wednesdays	monthly	Book Club with Garry Brindley
Mondays	Weekly	'Dru Yoga' with Lynne Bentley (13:00 - 14:15)
Tuesdays	Weekly	Pilates 13.00 - 14:00 – contact Jim McKenzie
Tuesdays	Weekly	Guitar Club (usually Tuesdays from 19:30 - 21:00) Paul Bentley
Thursdays	Weekly	'Iyengar Yoga' with Linda Chedburn (13:00 -14:00)



Stonehaven & District Men's Shed

Upcoming Shed Safety Supervisors Rota

Subject to any changes you have individually made

Thursday evening opening has ceased for the summer

Mon 17 Aug	Tue 18 Aug	Wed 19 Aug	Thu 20 Aug	Fri 21 Aug
Duncan Cursiter	Gary Brindley	Graham Gaston	Hugh Morel	Ian Smith
Mon 24 Aug	Tue 25 Aug	Wed 26 Aug	Thu 27 Aug	Fri 28 Aug
Bill Allan	Mike McNally	Mal Gray	Murray Marshall	David Walton
Mon 31 Aug	Tue 1 Sep	Wed 2 Sept	Thu 3 Sept	Fri 4 Sept
Paul Tosh	Raymond Penny	Steve Holt	Raymond Douglas	Bert Butchart
Mon 7 Sep	Tue 8 Sep	Wed 9 Sep	Thu 10 Sep	Fri 11 Sep
Bill Allan	Willie Shepherd	David Hepburn	David Ross	David Walton
Mon 14 Sep	Tue 15 Sep	Wed 16 Sep	Thu 17 Sep	Fri 18 Sep
Duncan Cursiter	Gary Brindley	Graham Gaston	Hugh Morel	Ian Smith
Mon 21 Sep	Tue 22 Sep	Wed 23 Sep	Thu 24 Sep	Fri 25 Sep
Kenny Dingwall	Mike McNally	Mal Gray	Murray Marshall	Paul Bentley

Shed News:

Open Forum

Chairman **Duncan** gave the following report at the monthly Open Forum on Thursday 6th August:

Welfare

- Framed Tribute to past Secretary, **Douglas Knox** to be displayed in the Shed and also a replica presented to his wife Catherine.

Health and Safety

- Fire alarm test including evacuation carried out on 16th July.
- Our Intruder alarm system is back in operation. Shed Supervisors should remind themselves of the code.

General.

- NEETs. Our plan to assist youngsters seeking employment by giving them workshop experience starts with local lad Adam Paterson on Thursday 13th August
- Members of SMSA visited the shed on Thursday 30th July to make a video based on the content of our application for the Scottish Men's Shed of the Year Award. The video has now been circulated to all.
- Additional Battery storage units to be installed using the donation from the Beerfest. Letter of thanks to be sent to **Robert Lindsay** explaining how the generous donation was used.

Projects

- KCH -Bird boxes and a bench are in for renovation by **Paul Tosh** and team and there is a requirement for some tidying up in the garden.
- Davie Ross** building a bench out of pallets for Cowie Thistle
- Murray Marshall** is renovating Muchall's Notice Board

Events

- Friday 28th July - Shed of the Year Awards in Perth
- Saturday 29th July - BBQ at the Shed
- Sunday 30th July - Harbour Festival.

The Scottish Men's Shed of the Year Awards

We were informed on Monday 13th July that we had been judged as the regional winner for the Northeast region. Subsequent to this, the SMSA board elected OUR SHED in their top three for Scotland.

On Thursday July 30th, our shed was visited by **Jason Schroeder** and **Michelle Wibrew** of SMSA to make a video to be circulated to ALL Scottish Men's Shed Association members who will be given the chance to vote by 18th August. The winner and runner-up Sheds will be announced at the AGM on 28th August.

At this event, the 4th and 5th place Sheds will receive their regional titles and a certificate for 2026 from the SMSA. The three finalist Sheds will each receive a regional title, along with a gold, silver or bronze award, a trophy, a certificate, and prizes from SMSA and awards sponsors. We are grateful to our members who assisted in this application and especially to those who provided testimonials.



To support our Shed of the Year attempt, we would be grateful if you could:

1. Register for free membership of SMSA here: <https://scottishmsa.org.uk/individual/>
2. View shortlisted Sheds and cast your vote here: <https://scottishmsa.org.uk/smsotyawards/>

You are encouraged to ask family members and friends to join and cast their vote.

Voting closes at noon on Tuesday 18 August 2026.



Stonehaven & District Men's Shed

Scottish Shed of the Year Competition Awards Celebration

Note from Jim McKenzie:

Dear Shedders,

The above Awards will be announced on Friday 28 August. We will either win or be 2nd or 3rd!

To mark the event the Shed has organised a Celebratory BBQ on Saturday 29th August at 4pm, with all shedders meeting at the Bowling Club at 2pm for refreshments and then to the Shed for food about 4pm.

All Shed members are invited to attend the Celebration BBQ where McHardy's burgers and sausages will be available along with a variety of salads etc will be available and Gateau and Cheese cake for sweet.

Please reply to the link below to say if you will be attending the BBQ for food and if you require Vegetarian or Gluten free options.

Assistance to prepare the shed is required at 1pm on the day, please see Jim Mackenzie if willing to help set up the shed. This event is free to attend.

NEETs

According to latest statistics there are over one million youngsters between the ages of 16 and 24 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). We contacted the Department of Work and Pensions and set up a meeting where we explored if/how we could assist in helping youngsters in this category. The potential programme we have agreed would be to bring in a suitable candidate for a ten-week period. He would be given a main project, under supervision, involving constructing the parts for a chosen model using our digital machining facilities, including CNC router, Laser engraver and 3D printer. He would then construct it in the Model Shop. This would be his main project but, in between times, he could get experience in activities such as assisting on prosthetic limb disassembly, bicycle and garden equipment renovation, lathe-work and on Projects in the workshop or in the community.

We have chosen a local lad, **Adam Patterson**, for this initiative.

Adam's objectives

In the experience at the Men's Shed in Stonehaven I would like to acquire and improve my experience and skills in programming CNC milling machines, 3D printers, and collaborating with others to meet my own personal and collaborative goals. I would also love to get some hands-on work experience in a woodworking environment with large power tools such as the router table. I am really looking forward to building the scale model and working in every part of the Shed. I have a little experience with a 3D printer as I own a small desktop model which I purchased last year. It has been a great addition to my workflow. However, I require more experience to be entirely confident in its use. My 3D modelling skills are not as strong as I would like and I only have experience making very simple things such as a scaled down tank shell and brackets to hold an extension lead onto a shelf. My skills with collaboration aren't as good as I'd like them to be so I believe this will be a great opportunity to come out of my shell and become a more outgoing person. I would love to get more hands-on experience making items both small and large in a more professional setting than my grandfather's shed. While I do have experience with some larger power tools such as a bandsaw, lathe, table saw and mitre saw, most of these are small tabletop versions and I find them somewhat lacklustre and would love to get some experience on their larger counterparts.

What I am most looking forward to at the Men's Shed is working on the scale model using as many of the processes and tools as makes sense for my project. I have several ideas on what to craft as a

small ornament for a shelf in my room. As a hobbyist tank modeller and avid history fan, I feel a scale model of a tank would suit me best.

To summarise, with my time at the Men's Shed, I hope to obtain experience running machines such as the laser cutter, 3D modelling, and collaboration with others. This will hopefully give me a boost to get a job in a machine shop, and if not, it will be fantastic addition to my CV.

News from the Shipyard

SS Robert E. Peary: This is Glasgow "Shipbuilder" **Mike McNally's** latest creation after previously constructing the Cutty Sark and San Felipe.



The text below is from Mike.

A Lewis & Clark class dry cargo ship 210 metres long and 14,000 tons.

Built in record-breaking time in California after a 1940 British merchant shipbuilding mission was sent to the U.S.A. to order ships to be built. They took with them the design for the "Darrington Court", which after some modification was the design used for the 2700 Liberty ships that were built in the US to aid the War effort by carrying cargo across the Atlantic and Pacific. Of the 2700 built, 200 were lost in action.

The Liberty Ship programme was not the start of prefabricated shipbuilding, as similar methods had already been used at the Hog Island Shipyard during the First World War. However, the Liberty ships refined these techniques through extensive use of prefabricated sections, welding, and assembly-line production, allowing thousands of ships to be built faster than ever before.

The design build time was 10 days, but the SS Robert E. Peary was built in just 4 days 15 hours and 22 minutes from laying the keel to launch. With a 2,500 HP engine, her maximum speed was 11 knots. After her launch on 12 Nov 1942, with a crew of 81 she served in the Pacific Theatre as a liberty vessel rescuing American soldiers from the beach on one occasion. She sailed to the Atlantic in April 1943 and operated there for the remainder of the war.

She was armed with 8 to 10 guns including 1.4 inch and anti-aircraft machine guns.

*Compared with the **four-day** construction of this vessel, our master shipbuilder has spent **four months** on this fine model.*

Well done Mike!!



Stonehaven & District Men's Shed

Social

The decision by the social team, led by **Jim McKenzie**, to display a board welcoming people to come in and have a look around has resulted in many more visitors in the Shed recently. This applies every Wednesday, between 10am and 12 noon. The intention of this initiative is to encourage existing members to come along and show any potential members what the Shed is all about.

The team are also ramping up their activities and, once a month, this now includes sipping a wee shandy at the harbour.



Doug McKelvie organised the first Pétanque competition for members and fellow community groups in the town. There is an open competition planned for the end of the month.



**STONEHAVEN
PETANQUE
TOURNAMENT**

**SUNDAY
30TH AUGUST 2026**

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

**ENTRY
£20
PER TEAM**

16 TEAMS MAXIMUM
First come, first served.
Secure your spot!

**FOUR PLAYERS
IN A TEAM**

**LOCATION
STONEHAVEN
RECREATION GROUNDS**

PLAY. CONNECT. ENJOY.
★ LET THE BEST TEAM WIN! ★

Bill's Corner

TOPICAL

Mary Street pothole



Duke ready for the World Cup



Audio Newsletter

- **Lynn Zaccarini** kindly creates the audio version of our newsletter. If you know of anyone in the community who may be interested in listening to it due to having a vision impairment or who just prefers to listen to a newsletter rather than to read it, please let them know. This edition of the monthly newsletter will shortly be posted on our [Facebook page](#) & [website](#).



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