



Stonehaven & District Men's Shed

Monthly Newsletter for September 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

Everyone is aware by now that Stonehaven Men's Shed are winners of the Scottish Men's Shed Association, (SMSA) Shed of the Year Award, so this month we feature photos from the SMSA AGM, on 28th August where the award was announced and presented. Also, the celebration organised by Jim McKenzie firstly in the bowling club for a wee shandy, then, to the shed for a BBQ.

We are deeply indebted to our members and family, our fellow community groups and all who supported us in voting for our shed for this Award.

Finally, on Saturday 11th September, Dr Jason Schroeder, CEO of SMSA, came to the shed and presented the winners Targe at a get-together of shed members and friends from the community.

Dates for your Diary

Friday	18th Sept	Trustee meeting at 13:00
Wednesdays	monthly	Book Club with Gary Brindley
Mondays	weekly	'Dru Yoga' with Lynne Bentley (13:00 - 14:15)
Tuesdays	weekly	'Pilates' with Steve (13:00 - 14:00)
Tuesdays	weekly	Guitar Club (usually Tuesdays 19:30 - 21:30) Paul Bentley
Thursdays	weekly	'Iyengar Yoga' with Linda Chedburn (13:00 - 14:00)



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Shed News:

Open Forum

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

Welfare

- Chairman Duncan welcomed NEET's trainee, Adam Paterson who started for a ten-week spell.

Health and Safety

- Portable electrical items to be sold MUST be PAT tested. We now have four members certified to carry out this task.
- Portable electrical items received from members of the community must be red labelled to show that PAT testing is required.
- Our Intruder alarm system is back in operation. SSS should remind themselves of the code.

General.

- Fire evacuations – Paul Tosh – shedders must be more disciplined, go to the right meeting point and respond when their name is read out when doing the rollcall.
- Paul Bentley called for cutting out background talk and noise during guest talks.
- 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.
- Peter Walker is investigating the source of power supply for next year.

Projects

- KCH -Bird boxes and a bench have been renovated and tidying of the garden is complete.
- David Ross, assisted by Adam has finished benches for Cowie Thistle

Upcoming Shed Safety Supervisors Rota

Subject to any changes you have individually made

Thursday evening opening has ceased for the summer

Mon 14 Sep	Tue 15 Sep	Wed 17 Sep	Thu 18 Sep	Fri 19 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
Mon 28 Sep	Tue 29 Sep	Wed 30 Sep	Thu 1 Oct	Fri 2 Oct
Paul Tosh	Raymond Penny	Raymond Douglas	Willie Shepherd	Bert Butchart
Mon 5 Oct	Tue 6 Oct	Wed 7 Oct	Thu 8 Oct	Fri 9 Oct
Steve Holt	Bill Allan	David Hepburn	David Ross	David Walton
Mon 12 Oct	Tue 13 Oct	Wed 14 Oct	Thu 15 Oct	Fri 16 Oct
Duncan Cursiter	Gary Brindley	Graham Gaston	Hugh Morel	Ian Smith
Mon 19 Oct	Tue 20 Oct	Wed 21 Oct	Thu 22 Oct	Fri 23 Oct
Kenny Dingwall	Willie Shepherd	Mal Gray	Murray Marshall	Paul Bentley



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The Scottish Men's Shed of the Year Awards 2026

At the AGM of Scottish Men's Shed Association (SMSA) in Perth, Stonehaven Men's Shed was awarded the trophy for Shed of the Year for Scotland.

This was the Press Release circulated by SMSA after the Awards Ceremony in Perth on 28th August.

Stonehaven Men's Shed wins National top spot

Stonehaven & District Men's Shed has taken the top honour, being crowned the 'Scottish Men's Shed of the Year' 2026 in a prestigious nationwide awards initiative organised by the Scottish Men's Sheds Association (SMSA), Scotland's leading men's health and wellbeing charity.

The Aberdeenshire-based Shed took the top national honour ahead of two outstanding finalists, with Milngavie & Bearsden Men's Shed finishing in second place and Irvine New Town Men's Shed taking third, highlighting the impressive national spread of Scotland's Men's Shed movement.

The Scottish Men's Shed of the Year awards programme recognises the remarkable contribution Men's Sheds make to their members and communities across Scotland—providing places where men can connect, share skills, learn new ones, work together and enjoy friendship and companionship.

Stonehaven & District Men's Shed has grown from a small group of determined volunteers in 2016 into one of Stonehaven's most valued community organisations. Members transformed a neglected former Beach Pavilion into a vibrant seafront community hub, contributing more than 3,600 volunteer hours to the renovation. Today, with more than 180 members, the Shed combines traditional crafts with CNC routing, laser engraving and 3D printing, alongside activities focused on health (yoga and Pilates), wellbeing and social connection. Its commitment to sustainability has also seen the installation of solar panels, air source heat pumps and battery storage.

The Shed's impact reaches far beyond its own members and its Stonehaven home. Members support local events, environmental projects and community initiatives, while an innovative prosthetics project has helped provide around 600 prosthetic limbs for people in Africa using reusable components recovered from hospitals across Scotland. Having previously received the King's Award for Voluntary Service, the Shed's latest national recognition reflects an exceptional combination of innovation, inclusion, sustainability and community service — demonstrating just how much a Men's Shed can achieve.

Duncan Cursiter, Chairman of Stonehaven & District Men's Shed, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be named Scottish Men's Shed of the Year 2026. This award belongs to every one of our members. It recognises the time, effort, friendship and sheer enthusiasm that they bring to the Shed every week. We are incredibly proud of what we have built together, but we are equally proud to be part of the wider Men's Shed movement in Scotland. A huge thank you to everyone who voted for us and supported the Shed. We would also like to congratulate Milngavie & Bearsden and Irvine New Town."

Jason Schroeder, CEO of the Scottish Men's Sheds Association, said: "A huge congratulations to every single member of Stonehaven Men's Shed. Winning this title is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful recognition of the contribution the Shed and its members make to their community. Our congratulations also go to Milngavie & Bearsden Men's Shed and Irvine New Town Men's Shed for reaching the final. All three finalists demonstrated the incredible diversity, commitment and community spirit found within Scotland's Men's Shed movement. The Sheds showed exactly what

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makes the Scottish Movement so special with its age 18 and over model encouraging intergenerational friendships, inclusion, practical skills, community spirit and men supporting men. The real winners are the 12,000+ men across Scotland who come through the doors of a Shed every week. Stonehaven's success is something for the whole Scottish Men's Shed community to celebrate."

Each of the three finalist Sheds will receive a trophy, certificate and a cash prize from the SMSA, funded directly from SMSA Shed membership fee income - Sheds giving back to Sheds. In addition, finalists will receive vouchers from Scotmid Co-op, access to Machine Competency and Woodwork training from David Young Training (RRP £638) and a Shed Accounts package from Thyme Accountants (RRP £360), as well as supermarket gifts from Tesco and Co-op.



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Scottish Shed of the Year Competition Awards Celebration

A celebration of the winning of the award took place on Saturday August 29th, firstly at the Bowling club, for a wee shandy, and then on to the shed for a BBQ.

A big thanks to Jim McKenzie and all who took part in the organisation and running of the BBQ to celebrate the award of Scottish Shed of the year, and to those who came along on the day.



Special thanks to Alan Stephen and his wife Joan for procuring the beautiful spread of BBQ food and accompaniments and organising the cooking and distribution. They were assisted by the shed team of Paul Tosh, Dave Summers, Hugh Morel and Bob McKinney and other shedders who helped with setting up the tables and clearing up after the event.



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Award of the Targe Trophy for Scotland's Men's Shed of the Year 2026

Stonehaven & District Men's Shed has officially taken its place in Scottish Men's Shed history after being presented with the prestigious Scottish Men's Shed of the Year 2026 targe trophy.

The special presentation took place today (Friday 11th September 2026) at the Stonehaven Shed which was packed full of members, supporters and local dignitaries who had gathered to celebrate the Aberdeenshire group's outstanding achievement.



Among those attending were John Cruickshank, Deputy Lieutenant of Kincardineshire, and Councillors Sarah Dickinson and Alan Turner, K&M Development Officer - Diane Henderson and representatives of other community Groups alongside members, friends and supporters.

The unique trophy was presented by Scottish Men's Sheds Association (SMSA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Jason Schroeder, who also delivered a speech explaining the history and significance of the distinctive targe trophy and why the Stonehaven Shed is such a worthy recipient of the 2026 title. The presentation provided an opportunity not only to celebrate Stonehaven's success, but also to recognise the remarkable contribution of Men's Sheds across Scotland.

Stonehaven & District Men's Shed was crowned Scottish Men's Shed of the Year 2026 after an exceptionally strong national competition, taking the top spot ahead of Milngavie & Bearsden Men's Shed, which finished Silver, and Irvine New Town Men's Shed, which took Bronze.

The result was particularly impressive with Stonehaven securing more than 50% of the public vote, demonstrating the strength of support for the Shed and the impact its members have made locally, nationally and beyond.

The award recognises a remarkable journey which began in 2016 when a small group of determined volunteers set out to establish a permanent home for their Shed. Members subsequently transformed a neglected former Beach Pavilion on Stonehaven seafront, contributing more than 3,600 volunteer hours to create the vibrant community hub that exists today.

Today, the Shed has more than 180 members and combines traditional skills and crafts with modern technology, including CNC routing, laser engraving and 3D printing. It also provides activities promoting health, wellbeing and social connection, while its commitment to sustainability includes solar panels, air source heat pumps and battery storage.



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Its influence extends well beyond the Shed itself. Members support local events, environmental projects and community initiatives, while the Shed's innovative prosthetics project has helped provide around 600 prosthetic limbs for people in Africa, using reusable components recovered from hospitals across Scotland.

The Shed was also previously recognised with the King's Award for Voluntary Service, making its latest national success another significant milestone for the organisation.

The distinctive large trophy is a unique feature of the Scottish Men's Shed of the Year awards. The winner keeps the trophy for a year, providing a visible reminder and talking point for the achievements of the winning Shed and its members.

The awards have been running since 2019 and celebrate the contribution and impact Men's Sheds make to their members, communities and wider Scottish society. The programme also gives Sheds an opportunity to share their experiences and inspire other groups across the country.

For Stonehaven, receiving the physical trophy today makes the achievement tangible — and gives members a permanent reminder of the tremendous support they received during the national vote. There are now more than 220 Men's Shed groups across Scotland, operating in all 32 local authority areas and engaging more than 12,000 men. Each Shed is different, but collectively they provide welcoming spaces where men aged 18 and over can build friendships, learn and share skills, volunteer, contribute to their communities and support one another.

Dr Jason Schroeder, CEO of the Scottish Men's Sheds Association, said:

"A huge congratulations to every single member of Stonehaven Men's Shed. Winning this title is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful recognition of the contribution the Shed and its members make to their community."

He added that the success of the three finalists demonstrated the diversity and community spirit found throughout Scotland's Men's Shed movement, with the real winners being the thousands of men who come through the doors of Sheds every week.

Stonehaven & District Men's Shed Chairman Duncan Cursiter said the award belonged to every member of the Shed, recognising the time, effort, friendship and enthusiasm they bring every week.





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As part of the SMSA's Scottish Men's Shed of the Year awards, all three national finalists receive a package of prizes and support. Stonehaven's Gold award includes the large trophy, certificate and cash prize from the SMSA, funded directly through SMSA Shed membership fee income — reflecting the principle of “Sheds giving back to Sheds.”

The awards provide much more than recognition. They provide practical resources and investment that can help finalist Sheds continue to develop their activities and support their members.

The finalists also receive Scotmid Co-op vouchers, access to Machine Competency and Woodwork training from David Young Training valued at £638 RRP, a Shed Accounts package from Thyme Accountants, valued at £360 RRP, together with gifts from local supermarkets.

Watch the Stonehaven story

The journey of Stonehaven & District Men's Shed — from transforming a neglected seafront building to becoming Scotland's Men's Shed of the Year 2026 — is captured in the SMSA's finalist film on the SMSA YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/MdDBo46VO84?si=2FCIIh_RhHv9ncdE&utm.

The film showcases the people, projects and community spirit behind the award. Congratulations to everyone at Stonehaven & District Men's Shed — a truly outstanding achievement.

A wee bit of Nostalgia

These photographs show our Opening Ceremony in 2019 and that quite a few of our community colleagues joined again to celebrate with us on this memorable occasion. Also, our dear friends, Douglas and Andy who would have been extremely proud to have been part of our celebration. Chairman Duncan, said in his response that the Award should be dedicated to past secretary Douglas who did so much for the organisation.



Mackie Academy polytunnel - History from Chairman Duncan Cursiter

Some 9 years ago Stonehaven Men's Shed was offered the use and task of maintaining Mackie Academy polytunnel. A group of Sheddors volunteered. The polytunnel was neglected mainly due to the main growing season coinciding with school summer holidays. The Sheddors set about improving the place and adding a donated greenhouse. Over the years the polytunnel has provided a place not only for growing vegetables but also providing a sense of satisfaction and peace of mind. On occasion, when convenient for the school, some pupils with additional support needs have visited under supervision. However, again, the main growing season, coinciding with school summer holidays, precludes advantages that would be gained from visits. Over the years some Sheddors



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have moved on and been replaced by others. Each has a raised bed space inside the polytunnel and outside within the fence. Storm Arwen destroyed much of the wooden fence around the boundary, but this was eventually repaired. Over time the wooden fence has been painted externally by Shedders. Disappointingly, vandalism was a problem, early days, followed subsequently by frustration from an occasional unwelcome visiting rabbit. Also, the occasional field mouse, birds, carrot fly and other pests. The rabbit problem was overcome by fitting chicken wire around the perimeter. Water supply is from a tap at the school with a long hose to refill the water storage barrels situated inside the perimeter fence, adjacent to the polytunnel. Water demand is very high during the growing season. Repairs and modifications are currently ongoing to replace wooden borders of the raised beds, tidy up the gravel paths and generally improve the place. Minor repairs are occasionally required on the skin of the polytunnel. Typically, tomatoes, cucumber and some more exotic plants are grown inside the polytunnel with varying degrees of success. Experiments sometimes result in disappointment. Inside the perimeter fence are small, raised beds where traditional vegetables are grown. Artichokes being an exception, and again with varying degrees of success. Two vine cuttings were donated by the late Noel Forbes and continue to produce grapes although nothing exotic yet has been produced from the grapes. Apple trees were donated and sit in pots inside the fence. The planters for spring bulbs and summer bedding plants for display outside Stonehaven Men's Shed are stored at the polytunnel.

Mackie polytunnel is a productive and enjoyable place where Shedders can pass their time constructively whilst appreciating the fruits (and vegetables) of their labour. Some are more green-fingered and more successful than others but all equal from the satisfaction gained.



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Projects

At the request of Cowie Thistle, two viewing benches have been constructed by Davie Ross with some help from our young trainee, Adam Paterson. These have been made entirely from scrap timber and wooden pallets.





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Bill's Corner

Stimulus Package

It is a slow day in the small Saskatchewan town of Pumphandle, and streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit.

A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night.

As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op.

The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit.

The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner.

The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything... However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how a Stimulus package works.

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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