



Website: [southbournemensshed.org.uk](http://southbournemensshed.org.uk)

Email: [southbournemensshed.@gmail.com](mailto:southbournemensshed.@gmail.com)



Geoff Collett being presented with a plaque for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



The old School New Road  
built 1945 and used  
until 1975 Infant School  
opened 1960 and  
extended in 1975.  
Age Concern open 1976



From an idea started in Australia,  
Men's Shed came to Southbourne in 2013.

Finding suitable premises proved difficult  
and they ended up converting the old school  
cloakrooms and office to accommodate a  
social area, workroom and tools store.  
This doesn't give them a lot of space and  
they extended into a shed and then another  
shed in 2023.

The hope is to one day have their own  
premises, with enough room to have a good  
sized workshop, kitchen and social area.  
We can only dream.



The humble shed is often considered the domain of men. **STEPHEN PICKTHALL** pays a visit to a group where this is quite literally true.

A growing phenomenon which has been sweeping the country is very quietly taking place in Southbourne.

Entry is free and open to anyone – just as long as you're a man!

There is a place where some of the village's mostly retired men gather to share hobbies and interests while enjoying a chat and a joke twice a week.

And they are part of an international movement which is growing and growing.

The Men's Shed has been open for just over a year and it has been such an enjoyable experience for those involved that they are looking to expand.

"It all started about two years ago by a group of members from St John's Church who realised there seemed to be a lot going on for women but not much for men," said one of the founding members Geoff Collett.

"We thought we should probably change that and as word got out in the community, Age Concern contacted us and came up with the very generous offer that we could use its facilities at its New Road Centre.

"We spent about six



Alan McNeill and Tim Padgham making a model rhino

months renovating it because it was a bit of a tip; being the old cloakroom of a school there were wash basins and coat hangers which had to be removed. A lot of work was done so we didn't open to the wider public until September last year."

Most of the 18 registered members are retired and gather at the shed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to enjoy the relaxed and friendly environment.

Among them is John Smith, who is often busy repairing old school textbooks which he sends out to Uganda.

"They are not always in

the best condition but the children there don't have anything so it's better than nothing," said John, who also helped set up a new school in the impoverished country in January.

"I've been doing it for 12 years and have probably sent about 1,450 boxes – that's about 15 tonnes."

The men have a variety of skills and interests and all the tools and equipment in the shed has come from donations.

They have made a number of board games for local charities and have also undertaken a number of local community projects, such as filling in a pond and turning it into a seating

area at Bourne Community College, erecting a shed for a disabled couple in the village and re upholstering chairs for the church.

"Once you're retired one of the major problems is social isolation, especially for older men," said member Alan McNeill.

"Men are not always the best at talking but here we come along to share different skills and interests and just enjoy ourself.

"There's no rules and regulations, it's all very relaxed and we're just trying to encourage our local community to do things together because there's not much else on offer elsewhere."

# A little sanctuary

Article from Chichester Observer November 2014





*Greenring*  
Southbourne

**Friday 13th November 2015** proved a lucky day for Southbourne as 400 tiny trees were planted in our tree nursery as the first stage of the Green Ring.

The saplings, provided by the Woodland Trust, will be nurtured until sites around the village are available for planting. This is a very long term project for the village, but we have to start somewhere and this was it.



Residents and a group from the Men's Shed supervised by Bill, helped build the compound



## Thankyou

13 Volunteers (aged from 20 to ??) achieved more than hoped for on the first day and they can be truly proud of their achievements.

Our thanks to them for giving up their time and turning up on what looked like a rainy day, but as you can see the sun came out.

Our thanks to Sarah for the refreshments and Maggie at Tuppenny Barn for the flapjacks.



Please sign up to help. There are various things that will need doing, not all manual of course, so please do contact either Bill or the Parish Council if you would like to be part of this team of Southbourne residents.

**Contact: Bill Ferguson - [williamnmferguson@gmail.com](mailto:williamnmferguson@gmail.com)  
or [info@southbourneparishcouncil.com](mailto:info@southbourneparishcouncil.com)**

When helpers arrived at 10am, Sarah our Wildlife Officer was preparing to supervise the planting. She said afterwards "it was the easiest task I've ever undertaken as the ground was perfect" It was so easy they'd completed planting all 400 before midday.

13 volunteers including Mens Shed turned up to create a sapling nursery behind the pavilion in the recreation ground. This was in preparation for the future creation of the Green Ring Which was included in the Parish Neighbourhood Plan.





Greening Southbourne  
26th November 2016



An event put on at St Johns Church by the SPNP Environment Group which was a focus group within the Southbourne Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2013 to 2015.

We had already planted a tree nursery at the recreation ground and held a couple of events to promote the Green Ring.

This greening event was well attended by Mens Shed and other locals and our Chichester Wildlife Office Sarah Hughes.



## Southbourne Commemorates

Individual engraved stones to represent the 68 men in WW1 and 20 in WW2 that died will be laid around the memorial Cross in St. John's Church garden in late summer. The Cross was given by an unknown donor and consecrated on 6th January 1921. This is a community project and the stones are being funded by local groups and residents.

Connecting Southbourne, (now SCA) are responsible for the fundraising, and asked Men's Shed to make poppies to sell. A lot of banging could be heard and we are pleased to tell you that 200 poppies were made using aluminium donated by local businesses T&C Precision and Metspin.

We thank them for this fantastic effort and as they reported in The Village Magazine they are available from Men's Shed, New Road and at other events from March. A limited issue of 200, so on a first come basis.

Bourne College Students have also made items to sell so they will be at the Sussex Day Fete on 16th June.

Donations for the stones have been received from various groups and individuals but we need a total of £4k to complete the project so more fundraising needed. Cheques payable to Connecting Southbourne

## Poppies

**Southbourne are joining  
The British Legion "Ribbon of Red"**



We have included poppies in the children's section of the Southbourne Spring Flower Show and given seeds to local schools. Hopefully residents will sow seeds or plant poppies around the village.

I have a number of small packets of seeds which will be at the **Community Meeting on Tuesday 6th at 7pm in Age Concern.**

"optimistically imagining Poppies all around Southbourne"



## Southbourne Men's Shed

are making poppies.  
These will be on sale from April 2018  
and the proceeds will go to our  
Memorial Fund

Our thanks to Men's Shed and to  
T & C Precision, Manor Road  
who donated the aluminium.



Our Southbourne War Memorial, a simple concrete cross on a plinth, was given by an unknown donor and erected in the garden of St. John's Church in January 1921. 68 residents died in WW1 between 28<sup>th</sup> July 1914 and 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 and 20 in WW2 between 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1939 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 1945.

For 2018 we are having engraved stones for each individual and Connecting Southbourne are organising the fundraising.

Contact: Ruth Heelan  
22, Frarydene  
Prinsted, Southbourne  
West Sussex PO10 8HU



e.mail: [ruth.heelan@talktalk.net](mailto:ruth.heelan@talktalk.net)  
[www.southbourneonline.co.uk](http://www.southbourneonline.co.uk)

Fb: Southbourne West Sussex - Village Events

Donations can be made via PayPal on [www.southbourneonline.co.uk](http://www.southbourneonline.co.uk).  
Cheques made payable to Connecting Southbourne, or cash can be taken into St. John's Office, weekday mornings 9 - 12.



The named stones were not permitted by the Diocese and so donations were returned to some people at their request. The remainder was transferred to the Parish Council War Memorial fund.



# SOUTHBOURNE MEN'S SHED



The Southbourne Men's Shed are pleased to celebrate our 10 year anniversary with an Open Day on Saturday 7th October from 10:00am till 2:00pm at The Men's Shed, New Road, Southbourne, PO10 8JX. Have you ever wondered what the Shedders of Southbourne get up to? Come along for a chat and a play with some of our toys, see what we do and what you can get up to in our recently refurbished social/club room and workshop and visit our new Small Projects Assembly Shop. You will be assured a friendly warm welcome and a cuppa with biscuits. Entry is free. Refreshments will be available.



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[www.southbournemensshed.org.uk](http://www.southbournemensshed.org.uk)

Registered charity CIO 117427



# Men's Shed Model Railway Group

In association with Southdowns Group of the  
7mm Narrow Gauge Association

Are having an

# Open Day

**Saturday 23rd June**

10.30 till 4

Meet the Shedders.  
Check out the Men's Shed,  
see what we do and  
see what you can get up to  
at

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**The Old School. New Road.  
Southbourne. PO10 8JX**

[www.southbournemensshed.btck.co.uk](http://www.southbournemensshed.btck.co.uk)

# Southbourne Men's Shed Model Railway Group

In association with Southdowns Group of the  
7mm Narrow Gauge Association

# Open Day

**Saturday 12th August**

10.30 till 4

Meet the Shedders.  
Check out the Men's Shed,  
see what we do and  
see what you can get up to  
at

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**The Old School. New Road.  
Southbourne. PO10 8JX**  
[www.southbournemensshed.btck.co.uk](http://www.southbournemensshed.btck.co.uk)

## Southbourne Men's Shed

New Road, PO10 8JX

### JUMBLE TRAIL SUNDAY

1ST OCTOBER 10AM TO 2PM

Machines, Tools and other stuff on sale

Card payment option available

# Coffee & Cake Or a Bacon Butty

In aid of  
**MACMILLAN**

# Coffee Morning

**CANCER  
SUPPORT**

9:30 - 12:00

## Thursday 28th September

### Southbourne Men's Shed

New Road, Southbourne, PO10 8JX

**Everyone welcome**





Left - Geoff Collett is on the right.  
He was the founding chairman in 2013.



**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in  
September 2023**  
**Below left: Chairman  
Tim Underwood**





# Southbourne **MEN'S SHED**



Men's Shed

## Sit On Train Rides

Book now for 2018 season

100ft minimum run

Attendance fee £40

50/50 share of proceeds

Ideal for village or school fetes

2 helpers needed to unload  
and set up

Train booking contact: Doug Meany email: [douggy@aol.com](mailto:douggy@aol.com)

**Southbourne Men's Shed meet in the  
Old School, New Road, Southbourne PO10 8JX**

**We are pleased to be able to support local  
groups and help them fundraise for their cause.**

**We are a registered charity and fundraise to  
provide activities for our members who meet  
weekday mornings, except Wednesday,  
in our workshop/club room adjacent to  
Age Concern, New Road, Southbourne**



**New members are always welcome  
to join our retirement retreat**



Men's Shed

**Men's Shed  
Train Rides  
at  
Sussex Day Fete  
held in  
St. John's Garden  
13th June 2015**





**All are welcome at the Southbourne Men's Shed.  
We are a community to create, converse and connect.**

**Come along for free and see what we are about.**

**We meet Tuesday and Thursday  
mornings 9.30 to 12.30  
In the Old School, Age Concern Annexe)  
New Road, Southbourne PO10 8JX**

[southbournemensshed.org.uk](http://southbournemensshed.org.uk)



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