

Brading Men's Shed

or Fettling for Old Geezers.

What do men do in their sheds? You may think that it's one of those questions that ought not to be asked! As far as we are concerned the shed, more about that word later, is a place of refuge for tinkering, pottering and fettling. If you need to ask what fettling is then you won't really know until you have fettled! Fettling means fixing stuff and putting things right (in fine fettle). It may be an outdated concept in a throwaway society but it is on the way back.

So what is being fettled in a men's shed? Is it the occupants of the shed, the shed itself or something else? Actually it is all of those and more. Brading Men's shed is a part of a growing worldwide movement which started in Australia and is now found in the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Finland, New Zealand and Greece. It is a social as well as a practical movement providing an environment for men, mainly of retirement age to get together and get involved in practical activities to counteract the negative effects of isolation and loneliness, particularly (but not only) after retirement or redundancy. It is entirely possible to live in a town like Brading, with neighbours on both sides, and still be lonely. The Motto of the men's shed is "Shoulder to Shoulder"

Part of the purpose of the Men's Shed to prevent old geezers from going doolally. I know what you are thinking! It may be a bit late for some! Whilst that is probably true the worse symptoms can be alleviated by the application of good company, laughter, tea & coffee, laughter, biscuits, laughter and some additional purpose to life. That is not to say that the shed is there to take over your life, it is an additional diversion.

The Brading Men's Shed is based in a shed which we are currently renting and fitting out for its new purpose as a workshop. We now have a space work on community projects or our own individual or joint projects. We also have access to tools we otherwise may not have. There is also a possibility of setting up our own repair shop (or fettling works). We are also conscious that in helping the community we would not be intending to take business from local tradespeople that would otherwise have come their way.

So, please, if you are a man over 50. If you are feeling at something of a loose end or just have time on your hands, come along any Thursday between 10am and noon to the shed in Beechgrove recreation ground behind the former Doctors' Surgery. If you are willing to get stuck in, please wear suitable clothing for activities such as woodwork or painting.

If you are not an Old Geezer, look around the house. What have you done with Granddad? Is he in the cupboard under the stairs or hanging on a hook in the hall? (Worse still is he stuck in front of the telly?) Dust him off and send him to the shed. If he is in his shed, all well and good. We have no intention of separating a man from his shed or cutting down his shed time, this is all extra. The more shed time the merrier! Most shed members have their own shed or workshop at home.

A men's shed is not the same thing as a garden shed. A garden shed may be used for storing things, mowers, rakes etc. some broken chairs and the national collection of big hairy spiders. A "Men's Shed" (note the plural) is not a place where things are stored but hopefully a happy place where things happen, including fettling. Incidentally we make no apology for the three letter word 'man'. Think of us as a sort of "Men's Institute" or "Townsmen's Guild". This is a little bit of the world set aside for us.



<http://www.bradingshed.uk>

Full size pictures are available at

<http://www.bradingshed.uk/photos/>