



NEWSLETTER

THE WOODHOUSE CRAFT CENTRE NEWSLETTER - October 2023

After 30 years we feel it is time to refurbish the Woodhouse Craft Centre. So, we are painting the walls first and then replacing the very worn carpet with a new safe tread wooden floor. The strip lights were updated in July to LEDs and the lighting is visibly better.

I have been clearing out the Centre which has accumulated stuff over the years which we don't need. Some items were sold on Ebay, but a lot have gone through Freecycle, and this has brought people into the Centre for the first time.

This work is being done while we are closed over Christmas. The week before Christmas is the painting and the week after will see the floor being laid. As a result, we are planning to get the Centre back to normal on Tuesday 2nd January so we will not reopen to members until Wednesday 3rd January.

We are almost there with our fundraising challenge, and the community has been amazing but, following advice from suppliers, we've decided to go for a better quality floor which will last for years. So now we have to raise more money than expected. If you can help in any way, we would be very grateful. Perhaps you might be thinking of giving to charity instead of sending Christmas cards?



Lorna

Chair of Trustees

**THE DONATION LINK IS ON THE
GOFUNDME WEBSITE**

www.gofundme.com/f/the-woodhouse-craft-centre-floor-replacement

The link to this is also on

www.thewoodhousecentre.org.uk



Our wonderful 'Poppy Lady' in Morrisons



Dear All,

I hope you had a good summer and that you're embracing the autumnal weather that is suddenly upon us. It's been a busy time for us at the Centre. You may have noticed that we have added the word 'Craft' into our name. It was suggested by one of our Trustees who rightly pointed out that adding it to the title gives people an idea of what we do in the Centre.

Membership of the Men in Sheds has increased so they've been busy upgrading the second shed over the summer and making it more practical for working in the winter. It is now kitted out with benches and lathes and has an enclosed front to keep the heat in. The refurbishment was helped by a small grant awarded to us by The Yorkshire Building Society, for which we are very grateful.



In the main hall we welcomed more volunteers and it's great to have new people that have lots of new ideas, so we invite you to pop in and see what is being produced and what is on sale.

Our focus at the moment is getting the hall prepared for our upcoming refurbishment. We are all very excited about the proposed changes, so please look out for our official relaunching of the new look Centre early next year, along with new leaflets and a new website!

We hope you have all received your invitation to our Open Morning on Thursday 23rd Nov. It's a wonderful opportunity to show you around and have a chat about the Centre over coffee and cake. We will also be selling lots of festive gifts, as well as holding a cake sale and raffle.

You can also support us by coming to the fairs and markets that we are attending running up to the festive period. These are listed later in this newsletter.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers, members, Men in Shed members & Trustees. We couldn't run the Centre without you all, and you make such invaluable contributions that enable us to continue what we do.

Lastly, I'd like to say thank you to all of our loyal supporters. Whether you're individual supporters or larger organisations such as Morrisons and Waitrose, we really appreciate all that you do for us.

With Best Wishes

Liz

Liz Martin-Lawrence



INTRODUCING MARTIN NEWLAN - OUR LATEST TRUSTEE

Martin has lived locally since he was 12 and now lives in Bletchingley with his wife Julia and dog Nellie. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Martin trained as an accountant and had a varied career. He was lucky enough to get his dream job which was as Chief Operating Officer of an educational charity based in a 17th century Royal house in Windsor Great Park.



Outside of work, Martin was a senior volunteer with St John Ambulance for more than forty years, Treasurer of Caterham School for eighteen years, and a trustee of the British Liver Trust. He is currently a trustee of a music therapy charity and a small grant-making trust.

For relaxation, Martin sings in the Oxted Glee Choir, volunteers for the National Trust at Polesden Lacey and on Limpsfield Common, goes to art classes and tries to stick to a ten thousand steps daily regime together with his cocker spaniel Nellie.

OUR LATEST WORKSHOPS

Our latest workshop on 30 September - 'Crochet Refresher and Next Steps' was very popular but, unfortunately, we had to cancel our 'Learn to Knit' workshop because there were no bookings.

It's our third year of running Christmas Wreath workshops, so we are hoping to repeat our success with this year's workshops on 25 November.

If you have any ideas for next year's workshops, please let us know.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Saturday 25 November
10am to 1pm or 2pm to 5pm
Full details on the centre website





INTRODUCING MEMBER - JO YARDLEY

In this article, we introduce you to another of our members: Jo Yardley joined the Centre two years ago. Jo cannot bear waste, and her mantra is always to “find a way, or make a way,” which incidentally was her mother’s favourite saying and her father’s school motto!

Jo tells us that Men-in-Sheds is not just a wonderfully equipped physical space, but also a space for laughter, companionship, creativity and learning. It has provided her with new skills, and unexpected friendships. She enjoys the joyful chat and fun that a morning in the Shed can deliver. She says it is a great leveller, and past work and professions are put aside apart, of course, from those whose previous work involved carpentry, wood turning, joinery... and electrical know-how.



Most of all, Jo finds the shed a place for sharing life’s stories and caring for, and giving, to others. For Jo, it has provided a place to develop her passion for recycling AND creativity. All her fellow members know that she longs for the day when we can all ... “imagine a world where things are repaired one more time than they are broken”.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Just over a year ago Robert asked if he could try his hand at caning. As you can see from the photo, he has proven to be an excellent pupil and his new skills are helping to raise funds for the Centre as he takes on more and more commissions. Robert has also shown further creative talents in the form of a beautifully etched sign of the Woodhouse Centre which can be seen in our new display cabinet. He is also learning to use the lathe in the shed. Robert is definitively determined to make full use of all the services available at the Centre - well done Robert!





THE WOODHOUSE CRAFT CENTRE OPEN MORNING

GIFTS * CAKE SALE * RAFFLE

THURSDAY 23RD NOV
* FROM 9.30AM - 12.30PM



THE WOODHOUSE CRAFT CENTRE
HOSKINS ROAD OXTED
01883 715189



A QUIZZER AMONGST US!



Mickie joined the Woodhouse Centre as a volunteer earlier this year. She is a keen crafter and has introduced Kate and Amy (pictured) to a range of projects using acrylic paints. Mickie is also a keen quizzier, with a number of TV appearances to her name. Starting with *Countdown* in 2015, she subsequently appeared in *500 Questions* in 2016 (and won!), *Very Hard Questions* in 2020 as part of a team of three and finally, she appeared in *Moneybags* in 2021.

Celebrating a milestone birthday this year, she decided to apply to BBC Radio 4's long-running *Brain of Britain* contest. There followed a successful audition process via Zoom and a

summer frantically revising all the trivia she could find. The show was broadcast on Monday 9th October at 3pm and is now available on BBC Sounds catch-up.

Do join us at our **Open Morning** on **Thursday 23rd November** where our *Brain of Britain* contender will happily answer any questions on her quizzing experience.

REMEMBERING AUDREY O'BRIEN

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Audrey O'Brien on 7th September. Audrey was a regular member and Committee member of the Woodhouse Centre for a number of years and generously lent her time and support to helping at many of our fundraising events and activities. Audrey's handicraft talents were much admired, not only by the Centre, but also by the Tandridge Handicraft Society which she attended on a Monday afternoon. One of her special skills was in producing beautiful baby blankets using the tunisian crochet technique. She is greatly missed.



One of Audrey's lovely creations



RECYCLED CHRISTMAS TREES

These Christmas Trees have been beautifully crafted from recycled wood by Dave in our Men in Sheds group. They really are stunning and would look fantastic in someone's home this Christmas. We are willing to consider any offer but they really do need to be seen in person to appreciate their true beauty. They stand 2m and 1.5m tall and can be conveniently stored flat once the festive period is over.

They will be on show at our Open Morning on Thursday 23rd November.



NEWS FROM THE UPHOLSTERY DEPARTMENT

We are delighted to welcome Susan and Chantal who have joined the upholstery team as new apprentices. They are enjoying learning the art of upholstery from our hugely talented and skilful members Janice, Gill and Veronica. Due to the expansion of the department and the high workload we were also thrilled when Titsey Rotary kindly agreed to donate a new upholstery staple gun to the Centre.



Pictured is Lorna (our Chairman), Janice and Sarah all looking very pleased with our new piece of upholstery kit.

Please think of the Centre if you have a stool or chair that could do with an uplift or drop-in seats that could benefit from a new fabric covering. Our team would be delighted to help and we have a wonderful store cupboard of great fabrics.

DONATING SEWING MACHINES

The Woodhouse Craft Centre was pleased to be able to help Tools with a Mission charity by donating some old sewing machines that were unsuitable for the Centre.

Tools with a Mission are a great charity who collect and refurbish tools and sewing machines and then pass them on to people in the UK and overseas to help them create livelihoods and transform lives.

Read more at www.twam.uk



DIARY DATES
AUTUMN/WINTER 2023

Thursday 23rd Nov – Centre Open morning – 9.30 – 12.30

Christmas Markets

(volunteers wanted – sign up form on the door)

- St Johns Hurst Green Christmas Fair Saturday 11th Nov
- St Marys Westerham Christmas craft market Saturday 18th Nov
 - Love Oxted Christmas Market Saturday 2nd Dec

CHRISTMAS DATES:

- Proposed date for Christmas Drinks and choir – Thursday 14th Dec
- Closed 2 weeks over Christmas – WC 18th Dec & WC 25th Dec
 - (refurbishment taking place)
- Reopen on Tuesday 2nd of Jan for staff and volunteers.
 - Centre open to Members on Wed 3rd Jan 2024 *
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**** NB: this is a day later than our usual new year opening***

Date for January lunch TBC

The Country markets every Friday 9.30am – 11.30am at The Centre