

Moseley & Kings Heath Shed

(Charity No 1161505)

Membership Policy

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

Moseley & Kings Heath Shed is a registered charity (No. 1161505), and a membership organisation.

Its purpose and focus is the reduction of loneliness, isolation and social exclusion among older men and women, through the provision and maintenance of an accessible, warm and welcoming place to meet, have a 'cuppa' and a chat. And, for those who wish, workspaces are available where items can be made, repaired, repurposed or recycled.

WORK SPACES & CAPACITY

There are, theoretically, 12 work-spaces in the 'shed', the majority currently allocated and equipped for woodworking, and a smaller number for metalworking. However, non-specific types of work, for example repairing small tools, domestic appliances or items of furniture, or repurposing various bits and pieces can be carried out on either type of bench space.

There is no requirement for members to have existing experience, skills or knowledge in any specific area of work, as assistance will usually be available to help provide guidance and support in most of the commonly needed types of work.

SPECIAL NEEDS

With regard to people needing to be accompanied by a carer or interpreter/signer, or those who use a wheel-chair, it has been decided that we will not accommodate more than one of each category during each session, and this to be on a first come first served basis. See the Shed Safeguarding Policy for further information.

TASTER SESSIONS

Should *'first-time visitors'* wish, their first two sessions may be regarded as 'tasters', after which a decision must be made as to whether to apply for membership by completing and submitting the requisite form. Taster sessions should consist of nothing other than observation of other members activities and the use of the restroom for refreshments.

SUSTAINABILITY, MEMBERSHIP FEES & DONATIONS

Membership fees have been set at £24.00 per annum, with a recommended donation of £2.00 a session and £3.00 for Glass (a session being either 10.00 – 13.00, or 13.00 – 16.00). Trustees have agreed to make concessions in cases of hardship. An annual review of annual membership fees and the recommended level of sessional donations will be carried out by the Treasurer and the results reported to the Trustees for discussion and decision at the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP, A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT

Membership is not automatically granted. Trustees reserve the right to refuse membership, should

the applicant not fit the profile for which the organisation has been set up, or for other reasons which may become apparent.

People who subscribe to the Charity's aims and objectives, and who agree to support the work of the charity, are eligible to apply to the Trustees to become a member. Members shall generally¹ be limited to those who are aged 50 years or older. Once accepted by the Trustees, membership will be renewed at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which time the annual fees come due. Membership fees must be paid within 60 clear days of the AGM, otherwise membership is lapsed. Any new members who join between AGMs will be charged on a pro-rata basis.

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The Trustees may give notice to terminate a membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the Charity. This will follow procedures as outlined in the Shed Grievance and Disciplinary Policies.

AUTHORITY IN THE 'SHED'

The 'shed' workshop area carries intrinsic risks whenever work is underway. The Trustees have appointed trained 'sessional supervisors' who carry the ultimate authority over those who are working there, and the scope and nature of the work being undertaken. Members are required to follow the advice and guidance that they may be given by the supervisor and to follow guidelines as set out in the Shed Health and Safety Policy.

ADDENDUM: Smoking, the consumption of alcohol or drugs is not permitted within the 'shed' or its immediate environs. In addition, members are reminded that they must not attend the 'shed' or seek to carry out activities within the 'shed' while they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than prescribed medication taken in the correct dosage, except and unless the use of machinery is contra-indicated).

The City Council's policy on smoking requires that anyone wishing so to do, must only do so in the park area (that is, beyond the nearby car park gates, or well-clear of the house' front door).

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

From time to time the trustees may nominate an individual for honorary membership, in recognition of the support they have given to the 'Shed'. The honorary membership confers no voting rights and membership fees are waived.

¹ Members shall generally be aged 50 years or over, though Trustees may in certain circumstances give special consideration to people younger than this age for membership, bearing in mind the aims and objectives of the organisation. Examples might include those who have experienced long-term unemployment, redundancy and/or early retirement on the grounds of ill health. Referral from a recognised health professional may also be considered as grounds for acceptance into membership.