**AGM report for Aldridge Shed 2024**

**Chair of Steering Committee and Chair of Trustees**

Looking back at previous years reports it’s clear that some things get repeated year on year, the main one being that we’ve had yet another successful year. Both our Christmas and Spring Fayres were well attended and profitable, and our membership continues to grow, helped by starting a once-a-month Saturday opening.

We’ve upgraded the drum sander and by carrying out garage clearances and with donations have added to our tool collection and wood stock. Some of the tools have been sold adding to our bank balance and we actively look to help any new Sheds setting up.

We have had CarveCo software installed on all the Shed computers making a big improvement to the range of work we can do on the CNC. This was very generously gifted to us by CarveCo on the proviso that we had four training sessions, two of which we have had so far. We have also purchased three laptop computers which have CarveCo installed, which members can take home to learn and practice on. The CNC and clean rooms were swapped over giving us more space for the CNC and room for the laser etcher and 3D printer. The CNC room is kept a lot cleaner as we are now able get round better with the vacuum.

We didn’t have much in the way of community projects this year. Although we have made several free standing figures for Aldridge Rotary, for their Christmas festivity’s and we donated £500 to the Samaritans. They commented, *“On behalf of all the volunteers at Walsall & District Samaritans, can I thank you for your generous donation of £500. All the money will go towards Project 55, which is our ambitious aim to replace our current 50 year old building, which is sadly breaking down. The new building will ensure our volunteers, can work in suitable accommodation, so we can continue providing our service for the next 50 years.”*

Want to mention the Beacon and comments from Wendy M?

Our good name seems to be spreading far and wide and we are having visits from various establishments. The Hawthorns in Aldridge said, “We feel the benefit of being able to be part of the community and the opportunity to make new connections would be fantastic.” This is re looking at some of their residents joining us. Occupational therapists have been along to see how we can help in particular with people they know who feel isolated and lonely. We seem to be the 1st port of call for people who are looking to start a Shed in their area as they have heard how good we are. We have had a few of these this past year. Can you think of others?

Both myself (Chairman of Steering Committee) and Ivor (Chair of trustees) want to thank all of the committee for their efforts over the previous 12 months and those who are not committee members but have added a lot of value, help and expertise with their membership of the Shed.