**Chair of Trustees Report: Aldridge Shed 2024–2025**

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present the Chair of Trustees Report for Aldridge Shed for the year 2024–2025.

This year has been a transformative one for our organisation. Due to a remarkable increase in membership and community engagement, we found ourselves outgrowing our current premises - a testament to the strength of our mission and the importance of the Shed in the lives of so many local people. In response, we undertook the bold step of moving to a larger facility that better accommodates our growing number of members and the expanding range of activities we now offer.

This move is a milestone for Aldridge Shed. It signals our evolution from a modest community space which started 7th June 2016, to a thriving hub of creativity, skill-sharing, and social connection. Our new premises allow for improved facilities, enhanced accessibility, and the ability to host more workshops, events, and collaborative projects - all central to reducing loneliness and fostering wellbeing through practical activity.

However, with this exciting growth comes a set of new challenges. Chief among them are the increased operational costs associated with the larger space - from rent and utilities to maintenance and insurance. As a result, the Trustees have had to place a

renewed focus on securing sustainable funding to support our expansion. This has

included applying for a range of local and national grants, as well as exploring new fund raising opportunities and partnerships.

We are grateful for the support we’ve received so far and remain committed to ensuring that Aldridge Shed remains an affordable, welcoming, and inclusive space for all who wish to join. We know the value the Shed brings - not just in terms of skills and hobbies, but in building friendships, purpose, and resilience.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers, members, supporters, and

fellow Trustees, whose passion and hard work make everything we do possible. As we look ahead, we remain optimistic and focused on ensuring the Shed continues to thrive in its new home.

Together, we are building more than just projects - we are building community.

**Ivor Anderson**Chair of Trustees
Aldridge Shed