

John's story

John is chair of Filton Men-in-Sheds. He has lived in Filton for over 30 years. Since he has retired at the end of 2015 he has volunteered at various places in addition to continuing in his various roles at 1st Filton Scout Group.



Men-In-Sheds @meninshedsfilton is a place for men (and occasionally women) broadly those over 50 who want to get together, share and learn new skills. The shed (workshop) has a selection of hand and power tools available to members (Shedders) as well as lots of bits of wood. It's a welcoming place for everybody where they can pursue their own interests and work on wood projects of their choice at their own pace; alternatively, they can simply drink tea, eat biscuits and have a chat.

Q. What makes you carry on being involved?

I'd like to think that I am giving something back to the community by supporting people. At Men-In-Sheds we have people with a wide variety of woodworking skills, I myself am an amateur. There is always a good feeling when somebody with limited experience over a period of time gets more confident with using the tools and then proudly shows off their completed project.

We are always on the lookout for ways that supports the wider Filton community; Recently we were really fortunate to have a donation of wood from Travis Perkins; Darryl supported by other Shedders made 3 fantastic benches for Filton Community Garden @[FiltonCommunityGarden](#) and the play area in Elm Park - All that is missing now is somebody who can inscribe some plaques for the benches.

Q. How do we build back communities for older people?

I don't think we should just focus on making communities better for the 'older' generation. There is real benefit in the mixing of young and not-so-young people; we also need to recognise that older people have lots of skills that they can pass on to those younger than themselves.

I was very lucky when I was looking for volunteering roles as there was a regular session at Filton library that gave me ideas of what was happening around Filton and Patchway. There are lots of groups and activities out there but I am not sure now where I would go to find that information. We have Filton Voice, various Facebook pages plus "In your area" etc, it could be useful for the various community groups in Filton to have some form of "communication forum" where they could exchange ideas on how to connect with people.