Four Men’s Sheds recognised with The King’s Award for Voluntary Service 2026

Wednesday 25 November, 2026

Four UK Men’s Sheds Association member organisations have been honoured with the 2026 King’s Award for Voluntary Service, the highest recognition for volunteer groups in the UK.

Bridge of Don and District Men’s Shed, Horsham & Shipley Community Project, Men in Sheds Cheltenham and Gloucester, and The Camden Town Shed are among 250 organisations nationally to receive the prestigious award, recognising the outstanding contribution volunteers make to their communities.

The awards celebrate voluntary groups whose work makes a meaningful difference, from tackling social isolation and supporting health and wellbeing to building skills, strengthening communities and providing practical help to others.

Celebrating community impact

Each of the four award-winning projects reflects the different ways Sheds create opportunities for people to come together and make a difference.

- **Bridge of Don and District Men’s Shed, Aberdeen** - helping members work together as a team, build connections and give back to their local community.
- **Horsham & Shipley Community Project, West** Sussex that Shipley Men’s Shed - encouraging people to stay busy, active and connected through fun, fitness and social interaction.
- **Men in Sheds Cheltenham and Gloucester, Gloucestershire** - tackling social isolation and creating opportunities for connection through shared activity.
- **The Camden Town Shed, Greater London** – has 70 people a week accessing the space, tools, materials and experienced support for joinery plus a clay-room for an alternative, quiet, sitting activity.

The Camden Town Shed also holds a significant place in the history of the wider Men’s Sheds movement. In February 2011 it was the first community Shed in the UK and two years later its founder, Mike Jenn established the national support organisation for the movement, the UK Men’s Shed Association.

“In the early days dozens of people interested in starting a Shed came from all over the country to see one in action” said Mike Jenn, “it focussed their ideas and gave them impetus.” From then it grew organically into a grassroots movement of 1200 independent open Sheds.

Currently volunteers are developing more than 200 Sheds that will bring community spaces back into use, share skills, deliver practical projects for local organisations and provide opportunities for friendship, purpose and belonging. “For most participants they are achieving outcomes they could never have imagined’ said Jenn.

Caroline Ellis, CEO of UK Men’s Sheds Association said: “These awards are a wonderful recognition of the volunteers who make Sheds what they are. At the heart of the movement are people giving their time, skills and energy to create places where others can connect, contribute and feel part of something. The recognition also highlights the impact of Men’s Sheds that goes well beyond the walls of the Shed, reaching into families, communities and local organisations. We congratulate all four recipients and the many volunteers whose dedication makes this possible.”

The King’s Award for Voluntary Service is equivalent to an MBE for volunteer groups and recognises exceptional work undertaken by volunteers for the benefit of their local communities.

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