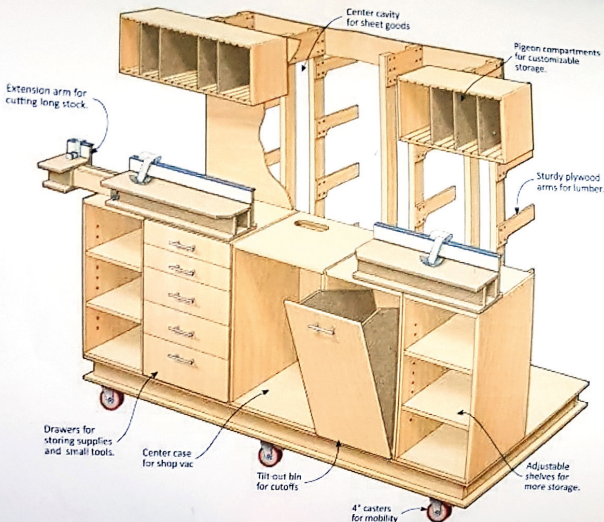


The Blaydon Shed

INFO BROCHURE

Figure 1: Deluxe Crosscut Station with Lumber Rack Exploded View



Small red
Book case
206 Small red
178 Road tie
168 Wood tie
269 Pink sw
236 Cat's na
920 Roller bl
338 Straight
42 One draw
42 Lumber
770 Folding
485 Compul
888 Red Off

Basement rooms
St Cuthbert's Community Hall
(just up from Morrison's)
Shibdon Rd,
Blaydon, NE21 5PT



The Blaydon Shed

Men's group - Man cave for many men!

The Blaydon Shed is a relaxed space for all men over 18 to hang out, get involved with making stuff, work together on projects or just take some time out from the daily grind and relax with a cuppa.

Call it a mancave for many men, call it what you like, but it's your space to do as you please!

- * Workshop
- * Gardens
- * Lounge & kitchen
- * Free WiFi
- * Dartboard
- * PS4 games system
- * Free drinks and snacks

COME ON
DOWN

£1 per session

OPEN EVERY TUESDAY & FRIDAY 11am - 3pm

Facebook: BlaydonShedgroup

Email: infoblaydonshed@gmail.com



FIONA, THE FOUNDER

Having previously been involved in a Men's Rights group was pretty much what it kicked it all off. It's something that I always felt strongly about in the background. I felt that men didn't have equal provisions to women in terms of groups, associations or networks to support or that they could go to.

Unless men are interested in football or drinking all night, there are very little places for them to go and just be themselves. Men are increasingly under pressure. We all are, but men more so are limited in places they can go, just relax and switch off from their daily life.

Somebody said 'Fiona, have you heard about the sheds?'. I didn't have a clue what he was talking about, looked into it and found that it was a 20 year old project that started in Australia for guys coming back from war who felt left out and weren't welcomed

back into their community. They set up a little place for them to go and make things. I really liked the idea, so I contacted the **UK SHED ASSOCIATION**, said 'Could I do this?', 'Yep! On you go!', so that was it. Then I finally found a place where I could address that need that men have, provide them a safe space, somewhere where they are all treated fairly, equally, not discriminated for their circumstances or their issues, their problems. They could just relax, be themselves and around other men, which is very important for them.

There is a phrase that **MEN DO NOT TALK FACE TO FACE, THEY TALK SHOULDER TO SHOULDER**. That's what we find here when we give them their time to sit and relax with each other. You find them opening up, talking to each other, they form friendships and it's very therapeutic. That's what we are most proud of down here.



THE MEN SHED

The Blaydon Shed is a safe relaxed space for all men over 18 to hang out. It is a **MAN CAVE BUT FOR MANY MEN**. They can come along and just relax, hang out, have a cup of tea, read the paper, have a chat or they can make stuff, build stuff, recycle furniture, renovate things, or do their own projects. It is **THEIR SPACE** and **THEIR TIME** to do whatever they want.



The Blaydon Shed is a constituted **VOLUNTARY GROUP**. They are member-led and run by a committee. The **MEMBERS** decide what is going on and which projects are undertaken. The **COMMITTEE** is made up of Fiona as the chair and volunteers who oversee these decisions (under the consideration of what the members want).





Call centres, businesses, and shops have been kindly **DONATING** discharged office furniture, equipment, and all kind of things to the Blaydon Shed. Some of it is used by the Shed and its members. However, they eventually got to the point where they had more stuff than they could use. So they set up a **SWAP STATION**.

Fiona explains the idea: “We can help others in the community, other groups like ourselves who don’t have much money. We are finding ourselves helping out charities, as well as local groups, businesses and individuals. I think everybody should know about

the swap station, it’s a great way to get goods that would have otherwise gone to the waste. Getting them shared around the community, getting them recycled or reused, that helps everybody.”

All items available for swap or donation to individuals, charitable organisations and groups can be found on the [Facebook page @ BlaydonShedSwapStation](#). It is also possible to drop in during the opening times for info. However, it is recommended to call in advance if wanting to collect a certain item or travelling from afar.





THE WOMEN'S CRAFT CLASS

The Blaydon Shed encourages **SKILLS EXCHANGE**. In the craft class, women are learning for themselves and sometimes also from the men in the workshop.

In Fiona's words: "The craft class has gone much better than we expected. We wanted to include some of the local women who have supported us. We had a lot of them going 'Well hold on! I WANT TO LEARN DIY, TOO!'

So we set up the weekly craft class on **TUESDAY AFTERNOON**, from 3pm to 6pm.

They bring us a little extra revenue, but more important these women are learning skills they didn't have before. They have learned **skills like pyrography, claywork, working with UV resin, 3D-modelling, woodworking**, and even started learning more about design processes."





The Blaydon Shed is lucky to have some garden space, but unfortunately we seem to be cursed with not finding any gardeners for some reason.

People have been doing little bits for it every now and then, but no-one has been committed to take care of it on the long run.

Random things are growing in the garden now and we do not know what they are. Is it a flower? Is it a plant? Is it a weed?

MAYBE YOU CAN HELP? We hope to make the garden an ongoing project and hope to even develop it into a community garden. Maybe we could even start to grow our own vegetables.

A lot of the guys here are great with carpentry, wood working, all kinds of stuff. But none of them is interested in gardening. **If you or a man over 18 you know can spare a few hours a week to help us redo, reorganise and maintain our gardens, please do get in touch :)**





COLIN, THE OLDEST MEMBER

“

My daughter said I should meet more people and be more **ACTIVE, CREATIVE and DO THINGS**. She found a pamphlet about different things that are going on in the area. There was something about the Shed and I thought let's have a go with that. I joined and so far it has been very good.

I have been involved since the beginning when it started at the youth club. We just had a meeting room there. But when we came down here, we started organising things and get small tools, big tools, and old ones too. **We get all the TOOLS together for the making.**

I am here to organise the workshop and keep it nice. I always say filling up a space is easy, but the cleaning up is hard. All the pieces of wood and the tools lying around...

Different people come in, having different IDEAS. Just this morning there was someone making an amplifier for turntables. It's too technical for me, really, but he seems to know what he's doing. We got a lot of different expertises here. Some people know a thing, and do nothing. I did some Do-It-Yourself around the home, like a new kitchen and some things, so I know a bit.



THOM, THE YOUNGEST MEMBER

“

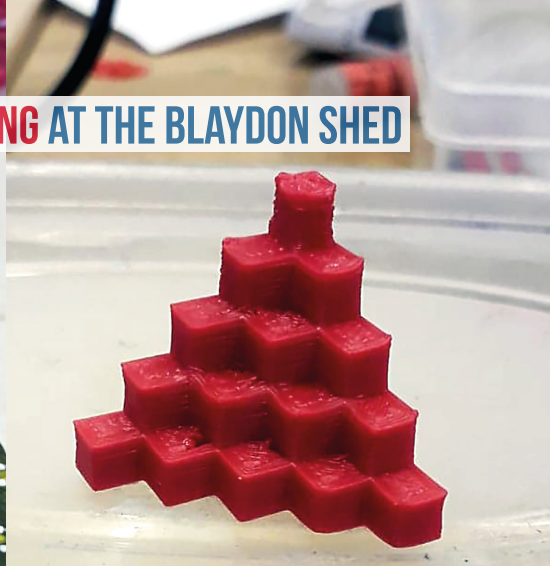
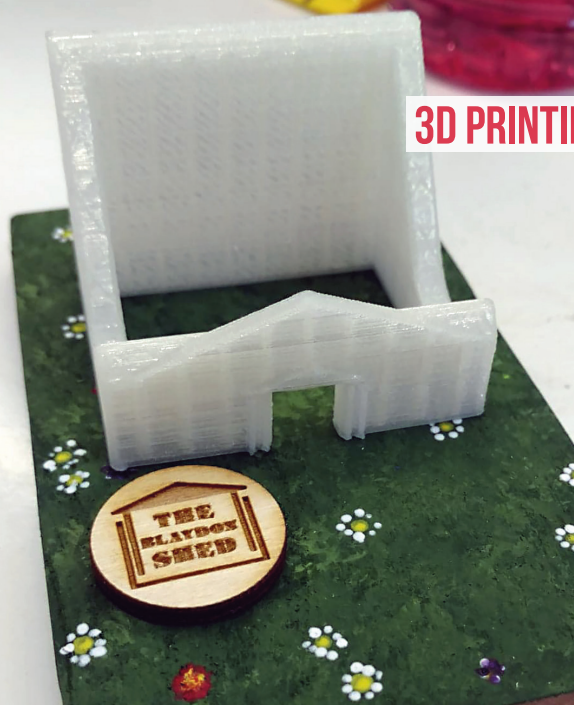
I am a **VOLUNTEER** and the **YOUNG PERSONS LIAISON** at the Men Shed. I am local, have pretty much lived my whole life in Blaydon.

I came across the Shed through its Facebook page and decided to become a part of it because I agree with the **ETHOS** of the place. This is something I want to help grow. I am personally invested as well, **coming at it from a men's rights and MENTAL HEALTH** side of things.

I think it is a great place for men to come together, to combat isolation, and to have a bit of fun hanging out. **It is a nice FEELING to be here.** There are no requirements or commitment if you don't want any, but you can get involved as much as you like - and I think this is very appealing.

The Shed is not just for older men. All men can benefit from this atmosphere and can learn from each other. I definitely have learned a lot from Colin.

3D PRINTING AT THE BLAYDON SHED



Our 3D printer of the type [Makerbot Replicator 2X](#) was donated to us by [OPEN LAB](#), Newcastle University.

THE BLAYDON SHED IS ABOUT SUPPORT!



At the Shed while our focus and main purpose has always been and always will be about [providing a place for men to relax and do their own thing in](#), we also feel very strongly about being [a valuable and reliable part of the COMMUNITY](#).

We recently teamed up with [Blaydon Ryton & Whickham Rotary Club](#) and are dedicated to making changes and improvements in our community together to benefit everyone.

[We are stronger together](#) and we have many plans for a very exciting future for us all.

SURPRISE! A TUTORIAL IN NEEDLE FELTING!

STEP 1:

Tear a bit of felt from the big ball of wool.



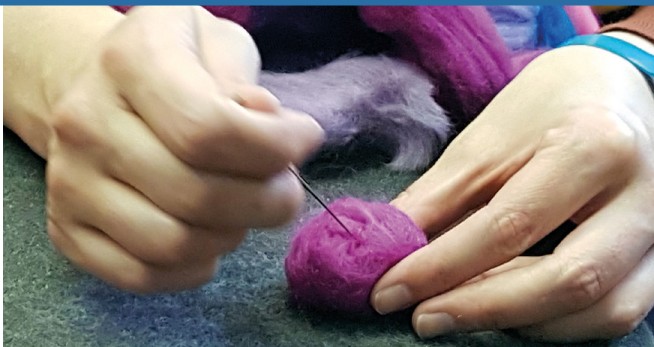
STEP 2:

Form it in your hand, shaping it to a ball.



STEP 3:

Take a felting needle and start to pinch the ball. The needle has tiny grooves that help to felt and fasten the fibres. Be careful not to stab your finger!



STEP 4:

Continue to work on areas you want to have deepened or shaped. In this case, we carried on pinching along sideways and along a line on the top to form a heart.



YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE BLAYDON SHED!

THE BLAYDON SHED
IS NOW
OPEN

To contact us, please email us at:
infoblaydonshed@gmail.com

or find us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/groups/BlaydonShedgroup

We are open **every TUESDAY** from 11am til 6pm
and **every FRIDAY** from 11am til 3pm.

We are based at:
St Cuthbert's Community Hall (basement rooms)
Shibdon Road, Blaydon, NE21 5PT

Location link on Google Maps:
<https://goo.gl/maps/y7CzxULUrQtb1Cwe7>

OPEN
←

This booklet was designed by **JANIS LENA MEISSNER** as part of her PhD research project **"Making Useful Stuff"** at **Open Lab**, Newcastle University.
The research was funded through the **EPSRC CDT** in **Digital Civics** (EP/L016176/1).