



Storeroom2010

An Island charity dedicated to helping Island people

GENERAL REPORT 2024

**Serving our Island community
and helping the environment**

Cowes Men's Shed

A Community Project brought to the Island by Storeroom2010. Generously supported by various local and national funders, including the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund



Storeroom Main Objectives

Our three main objectives are:

- 1) The prevention and relief of poverty by supplying donated furniture and household goods at minimal cost to people in need.**
- 2) The protection and preservation of the environment by encouraging re-use / recycling of donated furniture and household goods.**
- 3) The relief of unemployment for the benefit of the public in such ways as may be thought fit; including the provision of training, employment, work experience and volunteering opportunities.**

2010 Storeroom

Storeroom2010

The Isle of Wight's leading furniture re-use charity



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



We are a small independent charity, operating without the benefits of statutory funding. Situated on the Isle of Wight in an area which suffers disproportionately high unemployment and child poverty compared to many other areas in the UK, Storeroom2010 enables disadvantaged families to affordably furnish their homes, improve their quality of life and keep their dignity. Our doors are open to everyone.

In June 2017 we were delighted to receive The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for Volunteer Groups.

Storeroom received the IW Chamber of Commerce, Business Awards for Excellence in the Business in the Community Awards 2016.

At Storeroom2010, furniture (that may otherwise have been taken to Isle of Wight landfill sites) donated by Island residents is utilised, facilitating availability of affordable furnishing; this also minimises impact on the environment. Storeroom enables Island residents to reuse, thereby helping their community and the environment too. Our figures for 2024 show we have assisted with the reuse of approximately 163,500kgs of furniture and household goods, saving this from being deposited in our Island landfill. It's difficult to imagine that weight, so think of around 5,250 armchairs instead!

Customers in need can be referred to Storeroom by one of around 60 support agencies (statutory and voluntary) across the IOW; referred clients then benefit from a discount on a substantial proportion of our stock, on our already very reasonable prices.

Storeroom2010 provides volunteer opportunities and work experience to those seeking a route to employment, enabling people to build confidence and transferable skills within a framework of support. We have seen people 'change' over the space of just a few days and become more socially interactive and pleased they have found something they can do and enjoy. Since we opened in 2010, over 50 people have moved into paid work from a volunteer or work experience position at Storeroom.

During 2024 Storeroom received referrals for 220 disadvantaged people. This group received extra discounts on basic stock items. Some people/families made no payment for the goods supplied at all, as their Housing Association were engaged in a partnership scheme with us, in order to help their most needy and vulnerable clients.

We saw over 5,400 paying customers who purchased more than 16,000 items, with a little over 1,900 people making donations of their unwanted, but reusable furniture and household goods to us.

The Island Probation Service send clients to Storeroom who are required to work unpaid hours. Community Payback Individuals often find themselves motivated by the industrious, but enjoyable community environment at Storeroom2010 and some stay on as volunteers.



1 Mariners Way, Cowes, PO31 8PD
Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-4pm

In a nutshell the purpose of Storeroom2010 charity and its objectives are threefold: -

- The prevention and relief of poverty by supplying donated furniture and household goods at minimal cost to people in need.
- The protection and preservation of the environment by encouraging re-use/recycling of donated furniture and household goods.
- The relief of unemployment for the benefit of the public in such ways as may be thought fit, including the provision of training, employment, work experience and volunteering opportunities.



Storeroom is different from other charities which collect furniture for re-sale, as they are often looking to achieve the best possible profits to help their cause/purpose. Storeroom simply wants furniture which can then be offered at affordable prices to those in our community who really need it.

In Summer 2024 we celebrated our 14th birthday. We are very proud of all we have achieved in these years, including the purchase of our current Cowes Men's Sheds premises in 2015 (loan from NatWest, funding from Clothworkers Foundation) and in 2016 the purchase of our main premises (loan from SASC and funding from Power to Change and Garfield Weston Foundation). These purchases have helped to secure Storeroom's future for the benefit of the Isle of Wight Community.

From January 2014 to April 2018, Storeroom ran a Skills Gap training project, sadly this closed due to insufficient forward funding. Grant monies were received from many generous funders both on and off the Isle of Wight, which helped Storeroom2010 to finance the Education Project. Teaching staff were employed as required and we saw 678 learners. Of these, 152 people attended for an activity and 526 learners took an accredited course and gained a certificate to show prospective employers their achievement. The learners' new trades-based skills would have helped them in their home lives as well as with employment opportunities. Around 20% of the learners went on into employment, self-employment, or further education when they finished their course, or in some cases, courses. Storeroom Education was a registered NOCN Centre No. 30000877.



We met Fred Dinenage at the 2016 IW Chamber of Commerce Business Awards ceremony, he became our Patron in 2017 and keeps in contact monthly. Fred loves to hear our news!



Our customers continue to support Storeroom charity and despite the current financial difficulties so many are experiencing, they still come to us. Without the public's unwavering loyalty and the generous donation of their free time by our volunteers, we would not be here to serve our Island Community.

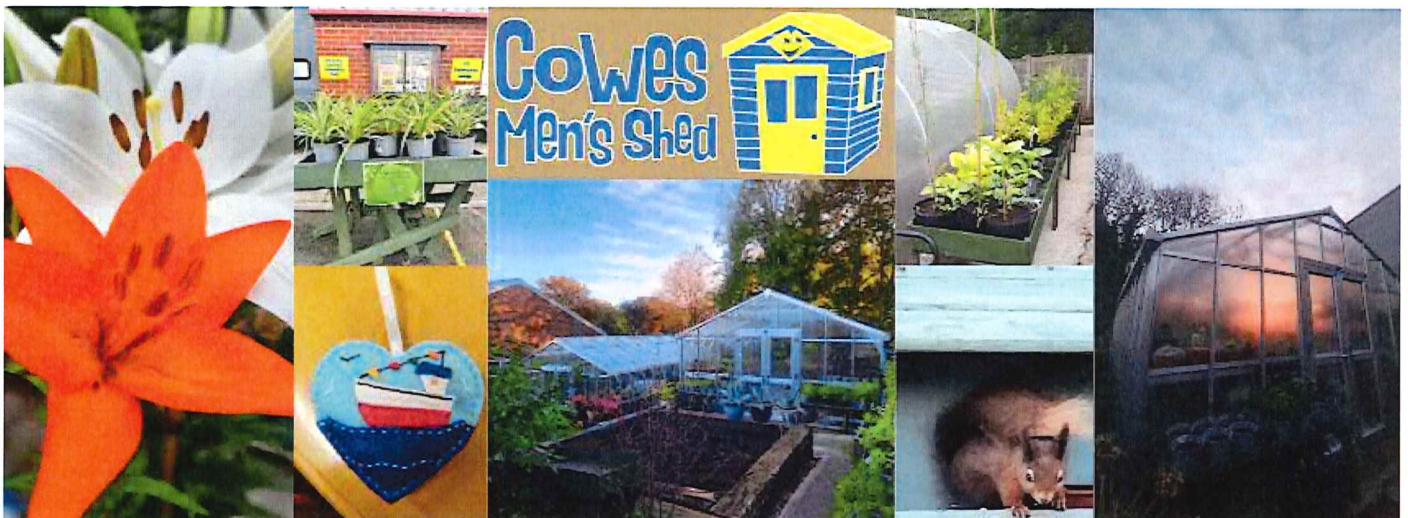
Keeping Storeroom2010 open to everyone who would benefit from affordable furniture is our main priority.



Storeroom's current Community Project is the Cowes Men's Shed which opened in May 2018. Supported by funders, both local and national, the Shed has around 170 members aged 18+ and 30% are women.

Predominantly aimed at seniors, the Shed provides a well-equipped carpentry workshop, hobby room, gardens with seating area, raised beds and two glasshouses. Shedders are encouraged to enjoy the company of others, complete projects for themselves, their friends and families, or maybe assist with philanthropic projects for local churches, schools and our hospital. Some members make or refurbish items to sell at Storeroom to raise funds towards the Shed's running costs. However, we do not expect anyone to take part in any project not of their own choosing

Our Community Project received 119 visitors, including local dignitaries, and saw 1,727 member attendances over the year.



Storeroom Mission Statement

To provide and support the improvement of economic and environmental wellbeing through the reuse of items and materials.

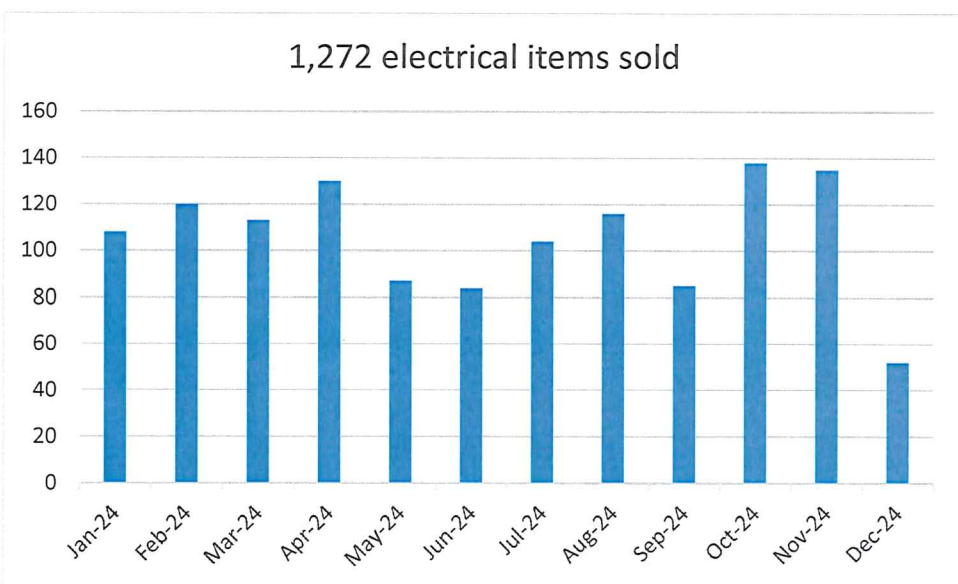
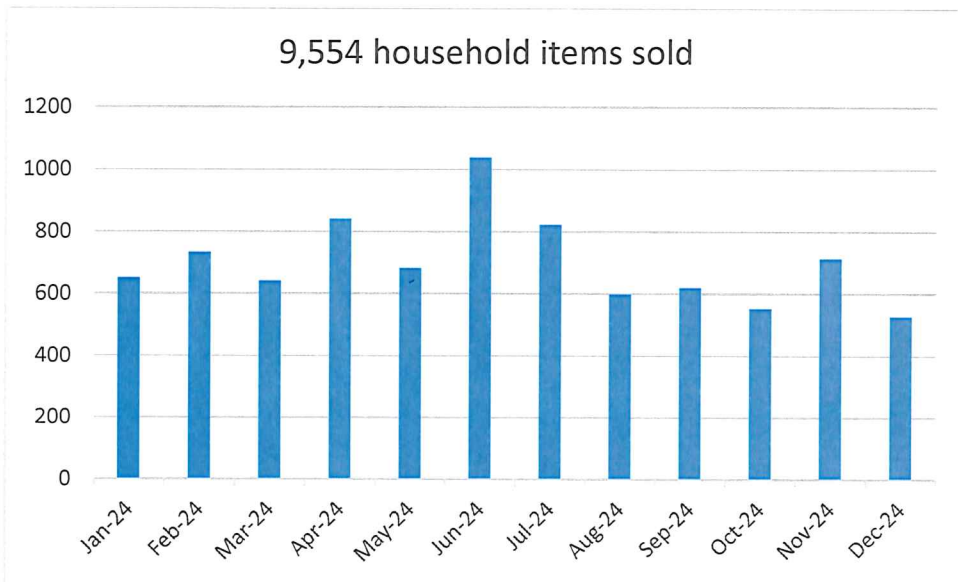
Using furniture donated by Island residents, we are able to offer a good variety of items, at competitive prices, to those who are less fortunate, enabling all to make their living space into a home.

We empower individuals from many backgrounds to find the confidence to work within a team, encouraging self-development and aiming to increase their self-esteem.

By collecting donations of household items, we are diverting possible treasures from the landfill site, keeping our environment healthy and Islanders comfortable.



Sales 2024



SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

To find us on Facebook, search for Storeoom2010. When you visit our page, please don't forget to hit the **like & follow** button!

You will find some fun posts on our Facebook page.

Sunday & Mondays - we play a word anagram game; the item is hidden in the picture we have posted AND we have a quiz. We post a cropped photo of an item, and our Facebook followers try to work out what it is. Answers are always shown later that day.



Saturday - "Trackdown Ted" often likes to hide around the shop and warehouse.

And here is Ted!



Storeroom2010 Selling Page



Also, on Facebook we have "Storeroom2010 selling page". On this page we mostly show our current available stock for sale. No measurements, just pictures and prices. However, any questions are welcome, and the team will always get back to you.



X



(previously known as Twitter)

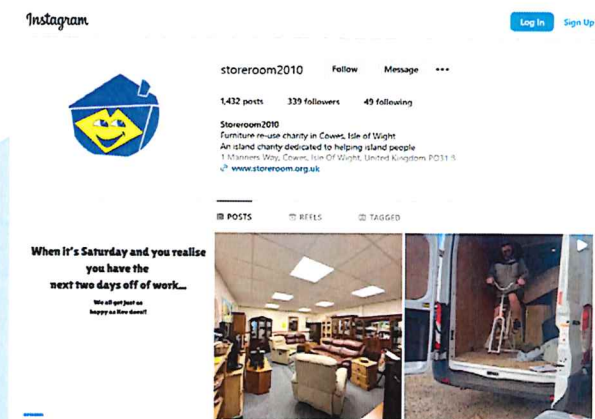
We are not currently using X at the moment as engagement dropped since it changed from Twitter. We feel our posts are more successful on other platforms. However, our page is still active. To find us on X, search for @Storeoom2010

Instagram



If you prefer to look at mostly photos, you could check out our Instagram page.

To find us on Instagram, search for @storeroom2010



Storeroom2010 website

Find us at www.storeroom.org.uk

Lots of information about us, how to get help if in need, how to contact us and a page to meet our wonderful team!

Storeroom2010

[About us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Make a purchase](#) [Referral information](#) [Meet the team](#)

[Are you suffering hardship?](#) [Cowes Men's Shed](#) [Monthly reports](#) [Events](#) [GDPR](#)

Storeroom2010

An Island Charity dedicated to helping Island people!

Company Number 7488966

[Charity Registration Certificate 1142010](#)

Friends of Storeroom2010

Our friends support us in the delivery of our services.

Sovereign Network group

Sovereign works in partnership with Storeroom to supply furniture and household goods to their clients.



Southern Housing

Southern Housing works in partnership with Storeroom to supply furniture and household goods to their clients.



Aspire

Aspire works in partnership with Storeroom to supply furniture and household goods to their clients.



The Footprint Trust

The Footprint Trust is a local charity that works with the community on a number of practical projects. They help people reduce their energy usage and keep warm and well whilst saving money. They were our very first supporters!



The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

The National Lottery is currently helping to fund The Cowes Men's Shed, Storeroom's current community project. The Lottery also generously supported our previous project Storeroom Education.



Northwood Village Website

The Northwood Village website carry articles about Storeroom and the Cowes Men's Shed on their village news page.



Reuse Network

Storeroom has been a member of the Reuse Network since we commenced trading in 2010. We benefit from their help and advice on a regular basis and use their Product Weight Protocol (tonnage tables).





IW Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce is a membership organisation, which represents and promotes the interests of, and meets the needs of its diverse membership by providing a quality assured range of services. We have been members since 2011!

Wightbay

This local website offers very good value advertising opportunities. We usually have 70-100 items offered for sale on it. The site also brings new customers to our door, who might otherwise not have found our slightly out of the way premises.



Power to Change

Power to Change is an independent charitable trust that supports and develops community businesses in England.

No one understands a community better than the people who live there. Power to Change work with community businesses to revive local assets, protect the services people rely on, and address local needs.



Community Action Isle of Wight

Community Action IW believes in the strength and ability of Island communities, in charitable endeavour, in voluntary action, and in not for profit motives.

CAIW exist to support the 1,500 or more voluntary and community organisations that work so hard for the benefit of the Island and its residents. CAIW aim to support the maintenance and development of community amenities and services, to help the Island have thriving communities where people get involved, help each other, and have access to the services they need.



SOUTHERN HOUSING



In December 2022 a single charitable housing association, Southern Housing, was formed by bringing together Southern Housing Group and Optivo.

As one of England's largest housing associations, providing over 77,000 homes across London, South East, Isle of Wight and Midlands. Whether it's traditional social housing, shared ownership, affordable rent, private market rent, or outright sales, they offer a range of services to communities across the south- east of England with the promise to;

- maintain and improve our local presence. They now have more colleagues, services and homes in their communities.**
- prioritising delivering excellent customer services by investing in digital tools and flexible services that suit customers' needs**
- delivering improved repair services by moving more repairs and estate services in-house. They will have greater control over quality and communication**
- put Residents at the heart of developing their service offer and will set their priorities**
- have improved resilience and financial strength with the capacity to deliver on their commitments.**

Southern Housing also work with their customers and in communities to provide activities, information, and advice that improve the neighbourhoods their customers live in and their individual lives.

Southern Housing working in partnership with Storeroom 2010

Southern Housing provide a furniture and household goods fund which the Storeroom manages. Southern Housing has helped over 150 of their tenants in need, by purchasing over 750 items through Storeroom.



SNG (Sovereign Network Group) was formed in October 2023 through the merger of Sovereign and Network Homes.

Their purpose is to provide good, affordable homes that are the foundation for a better life - and their vision is thriving communities, over generations. SNG provide over 84,000 homes and invest in communities across the South, West and East of England, including London, as well as aim to create thousands of new affordable homes every year.

Everything SNG earns, is reinvested so that their customers - now and in the future - have a sustainable home in a thriving community.

SNG working in partnership with Storeroom2010

SNG provide a furniture grant fund to help residents in need and, since October 2021, they have worked with Storeroom to deliver this support to its residents on the island. Together we have helped over 60 of their residents, who have purchased over 350 items from Storeroom (figures from Oct 2021 to Dec 2024).

Storeroom2010's Awards

In 2011 our first award was from Wight Mind, for our outstanding contribution to Mental Health Services on the Island; for our work in providing people recovering from mental health problems with volunteer opportunities and supporting them into work.



Our second award was from the IW Chamber of Commerce, Business Awards for Excellence – Business in the Community Award 2016.



Our third achievement was The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for Volunteer Groups, received in 2017.

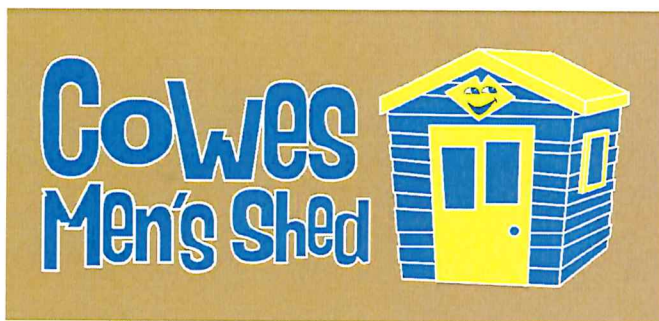


We attended the Isle of Wight Radio, Best in Business Awards in 2022, where we were Highly Commended for the Best Green/Eco Business of the year.



We also attended the Community Awards in 2023 and were delighted to be a finalist and to receive a Highly Commended certificate for the "People Focused Project of the year". So many great Charities across the Island winning amazing awards.





When Men's Sheds thrive,
they change lives.
Support the movement at
www.menssheds.org.uk



General information about Cowes Men's Shed

We are members of the UKMSA (UK Men's Sheds Association) and our Shed has the longest opening hours of any on the Isle of Wight; Monday to Friday, 10am-3pm. We offer free membership to everyone aged 18+, so that no one in our community is excluded. Despite the name, at present women currently form 30% of our total membership, which as of February 2025 stood at around 180.

The Shed opened on 14 May 2018; a community project brought to you by Storeroom2010 furniture reuse charity and supported by various local and national funders. The Shed has a carpentry workshop, which is very well equipped, an exterior horticulture area with raised beds, two glasshouses, seating area, red squirrel and bird feeding stations. Over the years we have received many kind donations of items such as chop saws, pillar drills, a table router, lathes and more for the carpentry workshop, also some shrubs and plants for the horticulture areas from our members. We have purchased larger equipment with money from various funders who were happy to help.

Men in Sheds is a great concept and there is a national organisation (UKMSA) which offers us support in making Cowes into a great Shed! The negative impact of loneliness and social isolation on mental and physical health are well documented. Surveys from Mental Health Charities have found millions of people feel lonely on a daily basis. Men typically find it more difficult to build social connections and rarely share personal concerns or worries. Sheds are about meeting like-minded people and possibly having someone to share your worries with too. Men are more likely to talk about their troubles when working shoulder to shoulder with others.

A Men's Shed (or Shed) is similar to a garden shed – a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature, while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They're about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course, a lot of laughter. Sheds are whatever the members (or Sheddies as they are called) want them to be. Whatever the activity, the essence of a Shed is not a building, but the connections and relationships between its members.

Sheds can also mean having fun again, sharing skills and knowledge, gaining a renewed sense of purpose (often lost when people retire) and belonging. Typical activities in Sheds vary greatly, but at Cowes Men's Shed we offer carpentry and horticulture activities all year round. People can try out new activities or rediscover old hobbies, utilise their skills and share learning, enjoy the company of others and maybe become more active too. There is parking locally, and the Cowes Park and Ride Bus Stop is just a two minute walk along the road; so easy access for everyone.

Our most recent anonymous survey of Shed members provided some enlightening responses: 90% agreed or strongly agreed that attending the Shed improved their general health and wellbeing.

100% agreed or strongly agreed the Shed had made them more active and that they had made new friends at the Shed.

85% agreed or strongly agreed that attending the Shed helps reduce stress, anxiety and/or depression whilst 100% agreed or strongly agreed that their quality of life had improved.

Some of the survey feedback we've received includes:

It's such a positive amenity to the many people that choose to come along.

Since joining the Shed my mental health has improved and I've made new friends and learnt new skills.

Since losing my partner I've found a sanctuary here. I can't live alone. I missed having company.

I have really enjoyed myself at the Shed. Meeting people from all over the country makes it really interesting. It has made me try a talent I didn't know I had.

Since I have been a member of the Shed, I feel a sense of belonging to a group that will help me improve on making things.

Thank you everyone here. I love it. I have lost everything, and I miss my late wife. That was the end of everything but here has saved me. Thank you.

Predominantly, Storeroom's community project addresses the issues of isolation and loneliness. It helps prevent people from succumbing to boredom or depression through lack of social interaction. For those who are unemployed it helps with confidence building. There are over 800,000 chronically lonely people in the country and their situation impacts on their health. Nationally the ageing percentage of our population who are over 65 is growing and with this growth are health and depression issues from retirees who feel they have lost their personal identity and purpose. According to the Royal College of General Practitioners, "Loneliness poses a greater risk to health than diabetes".

Of the 71,290 households currently on the Isle of Wight, one in six is a person aged 65 or over living alone. Older people, aged 70 years and over, make up 21.4% of the population compared to 13.6% nationally. We are tackling the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide by providing a space for members to feel comfortable and confident in discussing their mental health whilst being creative and productive.

The Shed Project's objective is to provide a comfortable, safe place where people who need company can go to combat feelings of isolation and depression and can meet others, socialise, practice hobbies; they can make things and drink a cuppa together! 'Shedders' are often retired, but anyone aged 18+ is welcomed. We have seen unemployed people gain confidence and be able to establish new routines and social skills, which have helped in securing paid work. Retired people have a wealth of knowledge they can pass onto the younger generation, helping them in many ways – and vice versa.

Our Shed Project is an innovative response to the many issues mentioned within this document. We find that other Men in Sheds Projects on the Island are not really fulfilling the original concept of being there for people when they need company. We are providing somewhere people can go to make a positive difference by working on projects for other charities and good causes. We are open 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year and enable people to dabble in carpentry and horticulture projects as they wish. 'Shedders' participating may want to help upcycle, repair furniture or assist with horticultural projects where items could be sold to raise funds for the Shed, but this is not compulsory, we never expect our members to take on a project not of their own choosing. Some members decide to make bird boxes and garden trugs all out of wood scraps and bits of old pallets, ready for Storeroom to sell to support the Shed, along with plants grown in the gardens and glasshouses.

We believe Storeroom's Cowes Men's Shed will continue to gain in popularity, providing companionship and company for people of all ages over 18, but especially to retired people who suffer from loneliness and isolation, the client target group we are advertising to attract. We target social isolation in a community where, looking forward, the ageing of the Island's population is set to continue with projections suggesting that by 2030 almost 34.5% of the population will be aged 65 or older, 17.3% aged 75 or older and 4.9% aged 85 or older. The proportion of the 85 years and over population is expected to increase from 5,378 to 7,358 people by 2030 – an increase of 36.8%.

Many of this group are lonely or bored, some suffering with mental health issues which could be helped by getting out, meeting people and participating in projects for community good causes. The UKMSA, believe older people, especially men, can benefit from the company, conversation, creativity and connections that a Shed environment can provide. It is said that Sheds are playing a particularly important part in meeting the needs of older people – particularly older men, who often feel that traditional services targeted at older people are not right for them. The creative, productive nature of Sheds provides an activity around which people can form bonds and networks, which go on to benefit them outside of the Shed itself.

Engaging people in our gardens has had a noticeably therapeutic effect. Many members do not have access to a garden and do not wish to travel to any public green spaces. Introducing them to the Shed, allowing them to enjoy the sunshine, the bird song and other wildlife is a breath of fresh air that has a positive effect on their physical and mental health. Inspiring people to participate in altruistic projects in the workshop fosters a sense of togetherness and giving something back to their community. It really is about building up the confidence and self-worth of people who have faced a series of challenges. We are helping people who may be feeling totally alone, seeing that they are happy and have what they need and beyond; letting our community know that there are people who care about their health and well-being.

