

The logo for 'Shed of the Year 2019' features a stylized graphic of vertical bars in yellow, green, and blue on the left, followed by the text 'Shed of the YEAR 2019' in blue and green.

- | | | |
|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Category | Shed Community project of the year | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Shed Volunteer of the year | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Shed Health and Wellbeing Impact of the year | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Shed Partnership of the year | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Shed of the year | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Please tick as appropriate*

Shed / Individual Nominated Whitby District Sheds

About your Shed

Your name: Graham Storer Email: graham_storer@btinternet.com

Telephone No: 07763 656627

Shed Name: For this purpose, Sleights Area Men's Shed (SAMS)

Address of the Shed: Littlebeck Methodist Chapel (rear room)

Littlebeck, WHITBY, North Yorkshire Postcode: YO22 5HA

In one sentence, why is your Shed a winner? We've never rested on our laurels and have adapted to meet wider loneliness needs in our rural district of both genders and this year young people with out-of-school workshops, in partnerships!

Considering the criteria, in no more than two pages, explain why you should win.

In addition, please provide photographs and any digital media and links.

Nominations must be received by midnight on Sunday 18th August, 2019 to admin@ukmsa.org.uk

Shed Partnership of the Year – Whitby District Sheds

- Have you got a partnership that you want to shout about?
- Is there a Local Authority or community group that is making a massive difference to your Shed?
- Are you working with other charities, schools or organisations and delivering fantastic outcomes for your Shed?

Whitby District Sheds is a potpourri of partnerships which has allowed some ground breaking outcomes both *for* the Sheds and for the community *from* the Sheds. Alongside the obvious *making of things* in the Sheds we have been busily engaged in the *making of community* - with others of a similar mind set. We believe the investment in work of this nature is valuable to the people we live among – most of whom we do not know, nor how they are.

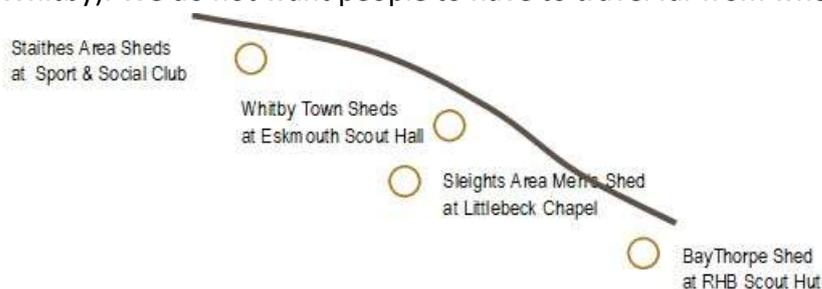
Before setting out the Cherry Basket framework we have 'ended up with - shown in the final picture and mainly arrived at by exploration not pre-design - it will be helpful to clarify the core reason the cluster of 4 small Shed venues in Whitby District exists. It is to combat isolation and loneliness for some men and some women impacted by bereavement of various kinds i.e. loss of the familiar and loss of mate-ship. The motto we use across our Sheds is 'Creative Distraction'.

Simply doing something that stretches people into the unfamiliar causes most attenders to refocus temporarily and thereby be distracted temporarily from daily concerns. Therapy of a sort that can become *new* habit forming! For some, the therapy is to be distracted towards helping other Sheddors and in wider work. We try to make Sheds with perforated walls that connect with the outside world as well as facing inwards to be 'family' support to one another as needed.



What is the Partnership weft and weave in what we (now) regard as a framework that has influenced Whitby District Sheds evolution? We go from inside to out!

1. Within each Shed there is the usual sense of Shed belonging that speaks of 'us' not 'me'. Generous spirits to each other, warts and all. The poster illustrates what Shed Rules are (courtesy of B&M stores). The Sheds are the bedrock on which the rest builds. The Sheds are not perfect, they are all works in progress that go through the inevitable swings of fortune!
2. The first Shed opened in early 2016 in an unlikely location in the middle of nowhere, discovered only by Coast to Coast walkers. Compact is the term estate agencies would use. But then most of our 4 venues are like that. The size forces people to interact and bond. There are no hiding places. There is Partnership in our Sheds as they have come on one by one in. First a rear hall of a Methodist Chapel; then a Scout Hall stage; an outbuilding at a Sports and Social Club and finally a Scout Hut. All are expressions of our rural setting (even Whitby). We do not want people to have to travel far from where they live. So we expanded



laterally in our region rather than creating a bigger single Shed. Our Sheds partner with each other and often cover for each other when there are staffing issues.

3. The original core start up team is still there but others in other places have joined in to give time and to receive benefit. From being the pioneer Shed in North Yorkshire (for men and then for women) we have helped other Sheds start through strong UKMSA connections. We want others to gain the benefits we know and in being generous with our time we have made friends across the Moors. They are partners that provide us with encouragement.
4. We have identified the Partnerships we have with venue providers (Church, Scouts, Club) and these have evolved into Partnerships that go way beyond that. Scouts working with Sheds in innovative youth activities and a Youth Shed now opening. Parents joining in. The Chapel where Sheddors act as hosts to walkers and recently built a labyrinth. The Social Club who wants to support our work with the local school and says yes to all we ask!
5. The first Shed encourager was North Yorkshire County Council who in blissful ignorance provided the start-up grant and whose new Living Well team worked with us to introduce isolated people referred to them. No dumping, and still 4 years on working together. Other agency partners were added (NHS MH, MIND, Carers Resource etc.) and other funders as the work has grown. We use the web site and forward some blogs to all referrers even when not formally required to. Our funders and funding officers are Partners too.
6. Other voluntary groups are partners. We supported directly or indirectly an allotment project, a beach sweep campaign, a village community connectivity project, the Kidz Making Good workshop programme, Youth Justice and anything that a Shedder or Sheddors wanted to help with.
7. The spiralling involvement (also through our media partners and local Voluntary oversight bodies) has resulted in a good proportion of people hearing about Sheds. Not necessarily knowing what they do or the whole purpose, of course. However, Sheddors and carers spread the word very effectively because they tell their stories.
8. We have strong Australian connections – by fortunate accident. A Gold Coast multi-Shed establisher now on the Australian Men's Shed Association Board. Two years ago there was a joint AU/UK Sheds presentation to passengers on the Queen Victoria! No opportunity lost 😊.
9. We partnered with UKMSA in some innovative ways. Women's Shed (She Shed) and now Kidz work. In these we have received over the past 2 years signposts to external partners. Important to the young people's trials Volunteer It Yourself and the Restart (Repair Party) Project. Practical help in workshops for free.

Thus it is not possible to single out a particular Partnership of merit because at different stages and in different ways ALL have been strategic. Partnership is not the same as contractual relationship. The latter is part of it but in all cases we work on the basis of *trust and very best endeavours*. We are not the only Shed to do that, of course.

What is astonishing to the few who signed on the line of our first Shed is what has happened; way beyond any expectation we might have had (but did not!). An adventure with Sheddors working to a common end. Some wonderful people outcomes that are the drivers to continuing the work.

www.whitbysheds.co.uk

www.kidzmakinggood.org.uk

A Shed Near You



Whitby Town Shed

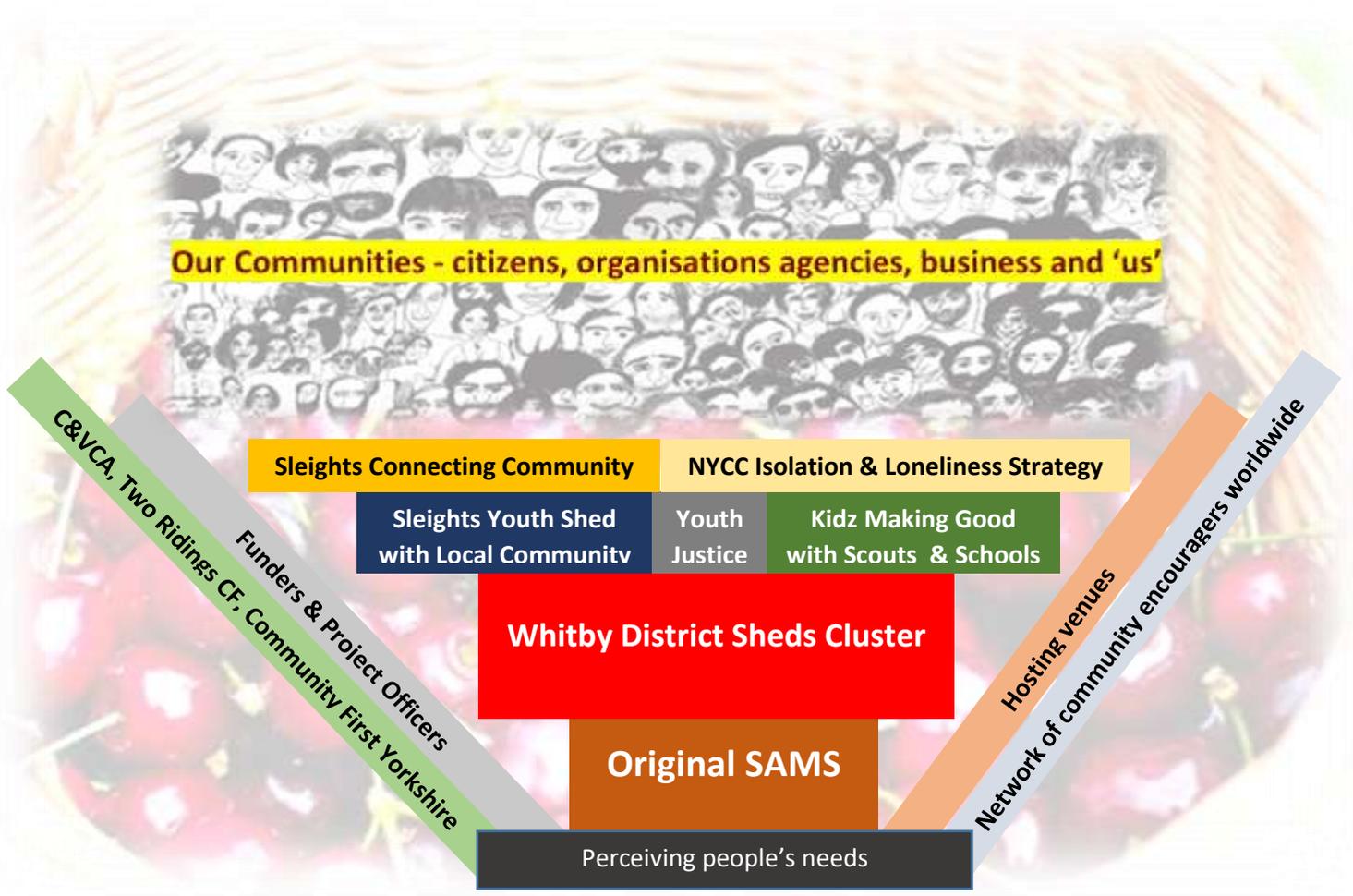
Staithes Area Shed



BayThorpe Shed

Sleights Area Shed

WHITBY DISTRICT SHEDS
Refriending People



When life is sweet, it is a basket of cherries