

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.

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

Shed / Individual Nominated Keith Nellis

About your Shed

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

Telephone No: 07763 656627

Shed Name: 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? Keith has been one of our star supporters over the past three years in a dedicated, reliable, very regular, team spirited way and is much esteemed, even loved, by all Shedders.

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 Volunteer of the Year – Keith Nellis

- Do you have a volunteer that shines? • Who makes a difference in your Shed? • Do they go above and beyond? • What makes them so special to you?

At school there are two kinds of kids in class who get noticed. The one's near the front always willing to put their hands up to answer a question and those at the back who are up to no good!

Keith Nellis is in the middle ranks in class who could easily be overlooked. He would never be described as extrovert in terms of talk but he is most effective at what he has done week in and week out over 3 years which is training and coaching individual wood turners of both genders (we will return to that shortly).

Keith came on *temporary* attachment to Sleights Area Men's Shed when we got our first, compact, second hand lathe.

He is an accomplished wood turner, though we did not know how accomplished for a while – until he showed his true colours. Why did we not know? Because of his modesty and use of very terse sentences.

Keith comes into his own when he is 1:1 in tuition with a developing wood turner. He demonstrates, assists, resolves issues and stretches those in his charge; to the extent that one "isolated" Shedder installed his own lathe in his basement workshop. On a serious note, the Shed and the lathe relieved this man from a lot of mental pain and brought him back from the brink. He is not the only one. Keith more than helps, he inspires.

Keith owned an agricultural engineering business, so he is a dab hand at making lathe adapters for chucks. A man of precision. Woodturning was his hobby and (along with another Shedder, Lance) he is a member of the notable Ryedale Wood Turners who have been generous to our Sheds from time to time.



There are few photos of Keith. He is here with "Snooty" Bob for whom Keith made the stick stand



Some simple things Keith has had a hand in, hands on.

As said already, Keith came to help out temporarily as we started with the lathe. He sees himself as a helper BUT we (and his wife) know how much he gets from being a helper. He too is helped! Something Sheds know.

Keith gets quietly on with things. If someone is making a masterpiece that requires knobs on, Keith is there in timely fashion with the knobs. Want a rolling pin, he's your man.

He makes wonderfully intricate objects. The photo does not do justice to what Keith can do. They are objects I have that he has made: the heart shaped table, the wool ball bowl, the novelty mushroom (a practice piece for trainees) and a plate I made under Keith's tutelage that amazed me I achieved.



Keith not keeping an eye on Maggie from Germany.

Now, to the matter of the other gender already alluded to. Our journey into Women's Sheds began with two women, one from Germany for 5 months, and the other from Redcar up the coast. Both learnt the lathe under the watchful eye of Keith. It was that watchful eye that caused problems and his honesty in telling his wife about Redcar Paula and the turning.

We should have told Keith (and did subsequently) that what goes on in the Shed should stay in the Shed. At an exercise class I attended with Keith's wife I was challenged about this woman in a Men's Shed! In shock, I repeated the comment to the whole class of mainly women. Not a wise thing to do.

Paula still comes to the Shed when her work allows, and Keith has learnt his lesson. It has become one of our Shed's standing jokes.

After that light hearted story (true in some respects but a little embellished!) back to Keith. Quite simply he is a stalwart. Not often at the front of things but one of the pistons that drives the Shed.

Sheds are not about individuals really but about their contributions to the collective Shed and Keith makes a major contribution to that. He is Yorkshire salt of the earth.

Keith represents something solid and stable in our Shed and that somehow gave us the confidence to expand the network of Sheds.

It is a pleasure to sing the praises of an unsung hero who all Sheddors respect for his invaluable contribution over the last three years. Five stars from us!



A Coast to Coast walker in front of Littlebeck Chapel, the rear room of which houses the major part of SAMS Shed.