



PRESS RELEASE – for immediate publication

3rd July 2017

Age UK Surrey wins the ‘Outstanding Community Organisation Spirit of Age Award’ for Men in Sheds!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that we received the ‘Outstanding Community Organisation Spirit of Age Award’ for our Men in Sheds project. This award is to recognise the significant achievements of a local organisation, project or group which supports or is run by older people.

Our Men in Sheds is a traditional leisure activity located in Ash, that allows men to socialise, make new friends and learn new skills. The main Shed activity of woodworking is carried out in a well-equipped workshop which includes hand tools, portable power tools and small machines. Supervision is undertaken by a well-qualified, experienced leader. Men can work on their own projects or carry out activities that will bring benefit to the local community as well as making items for sale to help with funding for the Shed.

The winners attended a wonderful evening ceremony at the Merchant Taylors’ Hall, London, on Wednesday 28th June, where they enjoyed a 3-course meal and entertainment with master of ceremonies Jon Culshaw.

Sue Zirps CEO, Age UK Surrey said **‘We are delighted to win another award for our Men in Sheds project! The Award is a real credit to the project, to John Fairs who co-ordinates the activities and to all the “Shedders” who attend “The Shed”.’**

Why is this activity so important?

Retirement creates a void and our research showed that lone men were less likely to engage in activities and social interaction than women. Activities and social inclusion helps improve feelings of well-being and fewer trips to the Doctor.

New shedder Ed commented ‘I lost my wife about 18 months ago and I’m trying to be more sociable, so I was really pleased to find this project on the internet’.

Want to Join?

To join the shed and for more information contact John Fairs on 07722 753074 or email enquiries@ageuksurrey.org.uk

End of press release.

More information about Age UK Surrey:

Age UK Surrey is an independent local charity. We work across Surrey to help improve the lives of older people. Our services are designed to enable older people remain independent and informed, healthy and active and connected to their communities. We help combat loneliness and social isolation.

Services include: Information and Advice, Counselling, Help at Home, Computer Drop-in Centre in Guildford, Tea and Chat in Tandridge, Foot Care in clinics across the County, Shopmobility in Guildford, Men in Sheds in Ash, Making Connections in Guildford & Waverley, Handyperson Service and Making Connections in Runnymede & Spelthorne, and Café Culture in Cranleigh.

Numbers of people over 85 continues to grow in Surrey:

- A 25% rise since 2001;
- 32,300 people in this age group (2014).
- Nearly 214,000 people are over 65 (2014).
- Statistics show that people in Surrey generally live longer than the national average.
- In 2012 there were 15,456 people in Surrey living with dementia, predicted to rise to 19,000 by 2020.

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Age UK Surrey

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