



Then along came COVID19 and lockdown – the end of Shed life as we knew it, and a return to the social isolation/disconnection which had prompted Shed formation in the first place. Unable to meet face to face or to use the Shed, the Board set up phone, email and Zoom communications, and where possible transferred equipment/materials/projects to members' homes where commissions could be progressed within COVID [FACTS] constraints. The board also held weekly Zoom meetings to manage Shed maintenance, reporting and other governance issues, and to set up protocols and materials for eventual re-opening.

Re-opening the Shed in July 2021 not only provided members with facilities to build back towards their busy, interactive pre-COVID activities and connections; it presented an opportunity to re-run our survey to measure just how far lockdown had eroded our members' life experiences. Each member was invited to complete their questionnaire on their first working day back in the Shed to record their experience of lockdown. Putting together the findings of both surveys is probably the first longitudinal study of a defined Shed population over a major social disruption. It is specific to Dalbeattie Shed and will be used internally to guide us back to a 'new normal', the lessons could also have wider significance on how to face future discontinuities. What follows is:

- An overview of Dalbeattie Men's Shed
- a summary of the impact of COVID19 on Dalbeattie Shed
- findings of the 2019 survey [the personal benefits of joining Dalbeattie Men's Shed]
- findings of the 2021 survey [the degradation of DMS Shedder benefits during lockdown]
- the COVID effect

### **Dalbeattie Men's Shed Overview**

Dalbeattie Men's Shed [DMS] was conceived in Q4/2015 as a not-for-profit charity targeted at the advancement of male health by addressing the social, health and well-being needs of men living in Dalbeattie and the surrounding area; delivered through the creation, upkeep, and development of facilities in which men can meet to undertake creative physical and recreational activities of their choice. By the time DMS became registered charity SC045783 in July 2015 it had settled into Units 8 & 9 Castle Works, Edingham and had morphed into a grassroots, working shed with 15 members and membership was steadily growing.

By Q1/2019 the Shed had taken over Unit 13 and was running 5 workshop areas, with 48 active members average age 70. The workshops were fully developed, and high turnouts of members put pressure on some work areas. It was time to review the Shed operating strategy. We had been involved in several Health & Well-being surveys [e.g., Age Scotland, RVS] but the Board were interested in a wider scope, so a survey was devised to solicit members' feelings about their comfort in the Shed, their connections and their health and well-being. The results were analysed using Impactasaurus software and the findings are presented under **2019 Survey**.

In Q1/20 SARS-CoV-2 hit the area and the Shed was closed for 16 months. Some projects were moved from the Shed to member's homes, and the Shed officers kept in touch with each other and members by a combination of phone, email, Facebook, and Zoom. On reopening the Shed

[05/07/21] in line with government restrictions on community groups it was obvious that many of the issues surveyed in 2019 had suffered. The board decided to re-run the 2019 survey slightly modified to measure the changes. The results were again analysed using Impactasaurus software and the findings are presented under **2021 Survey**.

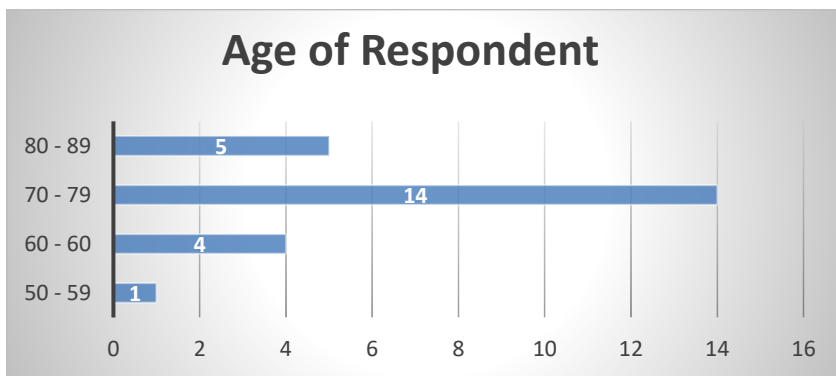
Comparisons of the 2 survey results are presented in **The Covid Effect**; highlighting how the Shed as an entity, as well as individual members, were affected by closing the Shed for 16 months, then re-opening with restrictions in place.

## 2019 Shed Satisfaction Survey

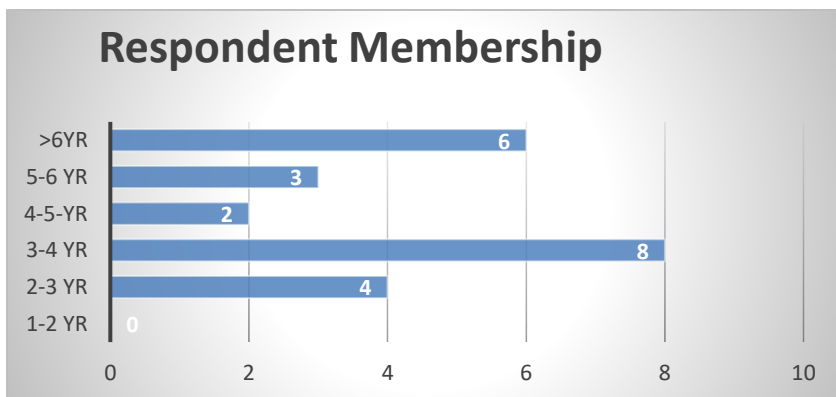
### 2019 Survey: Respondents

At the time of our Q1/2019 survey the Shed had 48 active members, average age 70 and attendance during Q1/19 averaged 23 with a peak of 29 and a low point of 18.

23 members completed questionnaires, they had an average age of 73, and 91% of them were beyond state retirement age [65].



**22/23 of the respondents were over state retirement age.**



**45% of respondents had been Shed members for more than 3 years.**

Normal Shed opening times in 2019 were Tuesday and Thursday mornings although 37% of respondents only attended infrequently or 1 day/wk.

46% of respondents had been members for more than 3 years.

18% of respondents had been members for 1 – 3 years.

36% of respondents had been members for Less than 1 year.

## **2019 Survey: Findings**

The 2019 survey ran in January & February and was designed to measure the positive [or otherwise] effects felt by members since joining the Shed. There were 17 statements [5 on Comfort, & 6 each Connections and Health/Well-being] against which the Shedders anonymously rated their feelings as a result of Shed membership against 5 Statements using options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, plus a final script question ‘What does the Shed mean to you?’.

## **2019 Survey: Comfort Findings**

### **Headline Comfort Findings**

#### **A1. I feel ‘at home’ in the Shed**

**86% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 9% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“I feel at home”

“Very welcoming”

“The Shed has a warm, friendly, welcoming atmosphere”

**95% of respondents felt ‘at home’ in the Shed**

#### **A2. I am satisfied with the Shed activities available to me**

**77% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 18% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“More than satisfied”

“Plenty of scope for continuing project”

“Compared with other Sheds the activities are second to none”

“Endless opportunities”

“There’s a broad spectrum of activities and knowledge”

**95% of respondents were satisfied with the Shed activities available to them**

**A3. I am satisfied with the Health and Safety in the Shed**

**41% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 45% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“Plenty of safety equipment and instructions for use”

**86% of respondents were satisfied with Shed Health & Safety**

**A4. I am satisfied with housekeeping/maintenance of the Shed**

**41% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 50% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“We are lucky to have high calibre office bearers who keep everything running smoothly”

**91% of respondents were satisfied with Shed housekeeping/maintenance**

**A5. I feel involved in the direction & running of the Shed**

**41% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 23% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“The Shed is well organized & everyone is involved”

“Everybody is included”

**64% of respondents felt involved with the direction and running of the Shed**

**67% of respondents strongly agreed, and a further 27% agreed, that they were comfortable with/in the Shed – overall an 86% improvement. There was <1% disagreement, and no strong disagreement.**

## 2019 Survey: Connections Findings

### Headline Connections Findings

#### B1. I have made good friends at the Shed

**59% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 36% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“With the warm, and friendly, atmosphere at the Shed you can’t fail to make friends”

“Despite a wide range of backgrounds there are no cliques and everyone is treated as an equal”

**95% of respondents have made good friends at the Shed**

#### B2. I feel supported by fellow Shedders

**59% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 36% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“It is wonderful to see how supportive and helpful members are to one another”

“If it weren’t for t’Shed I’d be dead nah”

**95% of respondents felt supported by fellow Shedders**

#### B3. As a result of joining the Shed I am doing things I enjoy

**82% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 14% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“I am able to pursue my many and varied interests”

“There is so much to do that people can ‘have a go’ at different things”

“..and the opportunity to try new things and be taught by professional people”

“Never done anything like it, really enjoying”

“Getting my old life back”

**95% of respondents were doing things they enjoyed in the Shed**

**B4. I have been able to pass on my skills/knowledge to fellow Shedders**

**50% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 32% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“We all learn from each other”

“Learning so much”

**82% of respondents passed on skills/knowledge to fellow Shedders**

**B5. I feel more involved with the local community as a result of being involved with the Shed 27% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 45% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“There is plenty of opportunity to help in the community”

“Definitely Shed activities in the Town”

“So many new friends”

**73% of respondents felt more involved with the local community because of the Shed**

**B6. My home life has improved as a result of being involved with the Shed**

**36% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 23% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“My wife would probably agree, home life has improved since I am out of the way more”

“I make simple things for home in the Shed”

“My wife would testify to that”

“Even my dogs noticed – he woke me up this morning because I overslept on a Shed day”

**60% of respondents felt their home life had improved because of the Shed**

**58% of respondents strongly agreed, and a further 37% agreed, that they were connected in/by the Shed – overall an 92% improvement. There was <1% disagreement, and no strong disagreement.**

## 2019 Survey: Health/Well-being Findings

### Headline Health/ Well-being Findings

**C1. I am more active as a result of being involved with the Shed**

**41% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 32% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“Standing and moving for a few hours”

“The Shed has made so much difference”

**73% of respondents  
are more active  
because of the Shed**

**C2. I feel my physical health has improved as a result of being involved with the Shed**

**27% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 46% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“As a result of being more active in the Shed”

“It’s more than obvious to me and my wife”

**73% of respondents  
felt in better  
physical health  
through the Shed**

**C3. I feel my mental health has improved as a result of being involved with the Shed**

**50% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 32% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“My mental well-being has improved”

“Now having a purpose in life I am sure it has had a beneficial impact on my mental well-being”

“A new outlook on my life”

**82% of respondents  
felt in better mental  
health through the  
Shed**



**C4. The projects I have been involved with in the Shed have given me a sense of achievement**

**68% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 23% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“No matter how small the item you have made, it does give you a sense of pride”

“Very much a sense of achievement”

“Like old times”

**91% of respondents felt Shed projects had given them a sense of achievement**

**C5. Attending the Shed has made me happier**

**64% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 23% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“Two days of the week that I will not miss if I can help it”

“Helping me work on my ‘Grumpy Grandpa’ reputation”

**86% of respondents felt more happier for attending the Shed**

**C6. I feel more confident as a result of being involved with the Shed**

**45% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 41% agreed with this statement.**

**Selection of comments:**

“Use of machinery done safely improved my confidence”

**86% of respondents felt more confident because of the Shed**

**54% of respondents strongly agreed, and a further 36% agreed they were in better health and well-being because of the Shed – overall an 90% improvement. 8% were neutral and there was a 2% disagreement.**

## 2019 Survey: What does the Shed mean to you?

The 2019 survey ended with a free script box in which respondents could answer the general question 'What does the Shed mean to you?' Their answers [in no particular order] were:

"A new outlook on life"

"It is a lifeline to me now [that] we have ex-servicemen who can relate to my problems"

"Attending a Men's Shed would benefit most retired men"

"A very worthwhile set up"

"It's given me a new lease of life"

"Like being at work but doing what you want"

"Something to look forward to on a twice weekly basis"

"Time to relax without pressures"

"Like being at work but doing what I want to do"

"A place to meet same minded people, and do things I enjoy doing"

"Sitting at home alone most days of the week I was beginning to feel that I had no purpose in my life – that is, until the Shed came along. I now look forward to two mornings at the Shed and only wish it was open longer"

"A place where you are made welcome and a place where you can enjoy being part of a well-structured, friendly team. A place where the community comes together"

"I have only recently joined the Shed and find it interesting and worthwhile"

"The right place to pursue my hobbies and mix with like-minded people"

**A Radar Chart of all 2019 responses showed positive benefit on all 17 statements.**

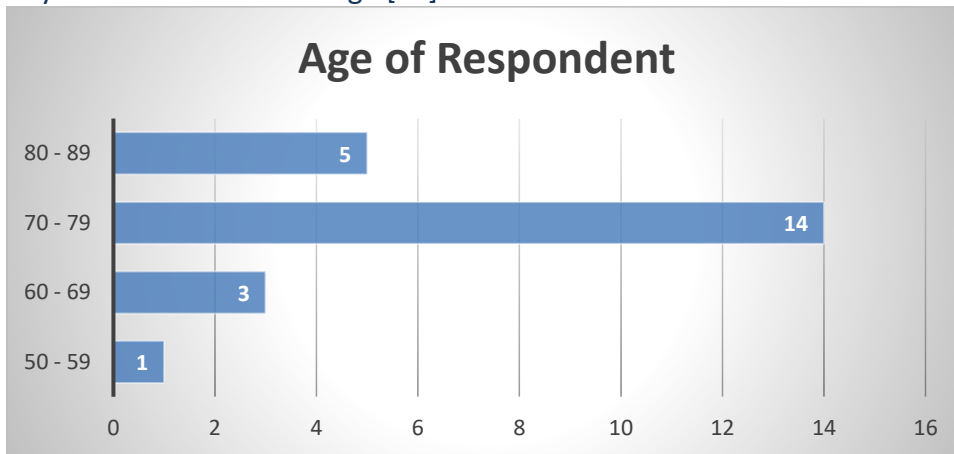


## 2021 Post-covid Survey

### 2021 Survey: Respondents

At the time of our 2021 survey the Shed had 43 active members, average age 74 and attendance during Jul/Aug 2021 averaged 20 with a peak of 24 and a low point of 17.

24 members completed questionnaires, they had an average age of 75, and 92% of them were beyond state retirement age [65].



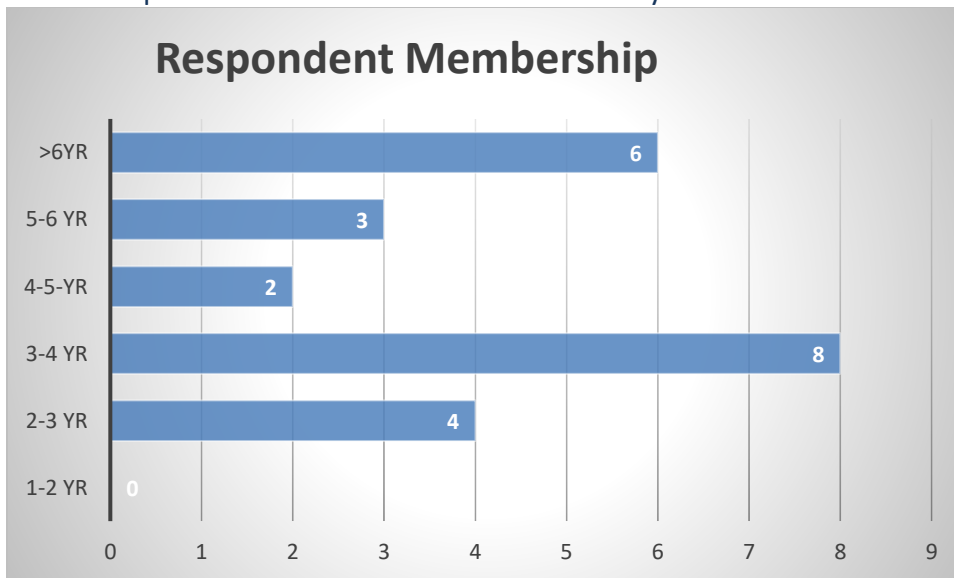
**22/24 of the respondents were over state retirement age.**

Normal Shed opening times in 2021 were Monday and Thursday mornings although 34% of respondents only attended 1 day/wk.

26% of respondents had been members for more than 6 years.

22% of respondents had been members for 4 – 6 years.

52% of respondents had been members for 2 – 4 years.



**There were no respondents who had been Shed members for less than 2 years due to 16 months lockdown.**

## 2021 Survey Findings

The 2021 survey ran in August. It was completed by members on their first day back into the re-opened shed was designed to measure the negative [or otherwise] effects felt by members during Covid lockdown. There were 17 statements [5 on Comfort, & 6 each Connections and Health/Well-being] against which the Shedders anonymously rated their feelings on return to the Shed against 5 statements using options: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, plus a final script question 'What does the Shed mean to you?'.

### 2021 Survey: Comfort Findings

#### Headline Comfort Findings

#### A1. I have felt fully integrated with my fellow Shedders

**21% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 38% agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

Regular emails and social media postings  
Regular Zoom meetings for Shed Board [weekly] and Members[monthly]  
Buddy phone contact system for fragile members  
**Not all members were media savvy, some very hard of hearing**

**58% of respondents continued to feel integrated with the Shed during closure**

#### A2. I maintained the range of activities the Shed made available to me

**8% of the respondents strongly disagreed with this statement; and a further 42% disagreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

Several activities/projects [Car build, 3D printing, CNC engraving, bicycle repair/recycling] were relocated in members' homes.  
**Social activity and most projects requiring big Shed equipment or multi-person activity could not be relocated.**  
**Lockdown pretty much stopped the commissioning of new projects [vs 287 projects completed in the year 2019-20].**

**50% of respondents couldn't keep up Shed activities available to them**

**A3. I maintained the level of Health and Safety when doing activities like those in the Shed**

**21% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 46% agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

This question became virtually meaningless with the Shed shut down.

**67% of respondents were able to maintain Shed Health & Safety**

**A4. I maintained the housekeeping of workspaces when doing activities like those in the Shed**

**21% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 42% agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

This question became virtually meaningless with the Shed shut down.

**63% of respondents were able to maintain Shed style housekeeping/ maintenance**

**A5. I felt involved in the direction & running of the Shed during lockdown**

**25% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 33% agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

Similar reasons to A1 largely prompted by answers to members frequently asking, 'When will the Shed reopen' and the regular postings to members explaining the likely post lockdown protocols.

**58% of respondents felt involved with the direction and running of the Shed**

**21% of respondents strongly agreed, and a further 34% agreed, that they were comfortable despite being excluded from the Shed – overall a 55% maintenance of comfort, largely due to the officers' efforts to keep in contact with each other and members, plus the relocation of projects to homes where practical.**

## 2021 Survey: Connections Findings

### Headline Connections Findings

#### B1. I have made good friends during lockdown

No respondents strongly agreed with this statement; 25% agreed with this statement.

**Contributory factors:**

Generally, a negative response but how much was lockdown responsible – Shed socializing was only part of the enforced isolation.

Only 25% of respondents have made good friends during lockdown

#### B2. I felt supported by fellow Shedders during lockdown

21% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 58% agreed with this statement.

**Contributory factors:**

Regular emails and social media postings  
Buddy phone contact system for fragile members  
Regular Zoom meetings for Shed Board [weekly] and members [monthly]  
Regular explanations of effect of lockdown conditions on Shed re-opening  
Not all members were media savvy, some very hard of hearing

79% of respondents felt supported by fellow Shedders

#### B3. I continued doing things I enjoyed in the Shed during lockdown

8% of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 29% agreed with this statement.

**Contributory factors:**

Several activities/projects [Car build, 3D printing, CNC engraving, bicycle repair/recycling] were relocated in members' homes.  
Shed officers/trustees had increased governance activity  
Social activity and most projects requiring big Shed equipment or multi-person activity could not be relocated.  
Lockdown pretty much stopped the commissioning of new projects [vs 287 projects completed in the year 2019-20].

Only 38% of respondents were able to continue doing things they enjoyed in the Shed

**B4. I have been able to pass on my skills/knowledge to fellow Sheddors during lockdown**

**Only 1 respondent strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 17% agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

The only multi-person activity sent to a member's home was the Skeoch car re-creation.

Some single person project relocations [like 3D printing and bicycle repair] where the activity happened at more than 1 location also allowed skill/knowledge transfer.

Social activity and most projects requiring big Shed equipment/multi-person activity. could not be relocated.

**Only 21% of respondents passed on skills/ knowledge to fellow Sheddors**

**B5. I feel more involved with the local community since the Shed closed**

**No respondent strongly agreed with this statement; 21% agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

A strongly negative response due to Covid lockdown and enforced isolation.

**Only 21% of respondents felt more involved with the local community during Shed closure**

**B6. My home life has improved since the Shed closed**

**No respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

The most negative response in this section – in fact 39% felt neutral about improved home life, and 61% felt their home life had deteriorated

**No respondents felt their home life had improved during Shed Closure**

**Only 6% of respondents strongly agreed, and a further 25% agreed, that they remained connected during lockdown – overall an 69% erosion. 6 out of 7 factors were negatively affected by lockdown.**

## 2021 Survey: Health/Well-being Findings

### Headline Health/ Well-being Findings

**C1. I am more active since the Shed closed**

No respondents strongly agreed and only 1 agreed with this statement.

**Contributory factors:**

Negative response due to lockdown – in fact 35% felt neutral about improved activity, and 61% felt their activity had decreased.

**96% of respondents were less active during Shed closure**

**C2. I feel my physical health has improved since the Shed Closed**

Only 1 respondent agreed with this statement.

**Contributory factors:**

Negative response due to lockdown – in fact 30% felt neutral about physical health, and 65% felt their physical health had declined.

**Only 1 respondent felt in better physical health during Shed closure**

**C3. I feel my mental health has improved since the Shed closed**

Only 1 respondent agreed with this statement.

**Contributory factors:**

Negative response due to lockdown – in fact 43% felt neutral about mental health, and 52% felt their mental health had declined.

**Only 1 respondent felt in better mental health during Shed closure**

**C4. The projects I have been involved outside the Shed have maintained my sense of achievement**

1 respondent strongly agreed with this statement; and a further 42% agreed with this statement.

**Contributory factors:**

Less negative response than other sections due to relocating activities to homes.

**46% of respondents felt Shed projects maintained a sense of achievement during closure**



**C5. Closing the Shed has made me happier**

**No respondents agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

The most negative response in this section – 1 respondent more felt neutral about Shed closure, 91% were unhappy/very unhappy that the Shed was closed.

**No respondents felt happier that the Shed closed.**

**C6. I feel more confident since the Shed closed**

**No respondents agreed with this statement.**

**Contributory factors:**

The second most negative response in this section – in fact 2 felt neutral about Shed closure, 87% were less confident since the Shed was closed.

**No respondents felt more confident since the Shed closed.**

**Only 1 respondent strongly agreed, and a further 9% agreed they were in better health and well-being since Shed closure – overall an 90% decline.**

**2021 Survey: What has closing the Shed meant to you?**

The 2021 survey ended with a free script box in which respondents could answer the general question ‘What has closing the Shed meant to you?’ Their answers [in no particular order] were:

“Much more than I thought it would, I have really missed it.”

“I missed the Shed very much”

“More time to catch up on home jobs, but now happy to be back at the Shed”

“A significant personal loss in terms of camaraderie, & health both physical and mental”

“Lost an important part of my week”

“Lost contact with people & the opportunity to use and learn different skills”

“Made me lazier”

“Lack of motivation, isolation not good for mental health, lost contact with friends”

“I have missed it”

“Great to be back”

“Lack of achievement/purpose”

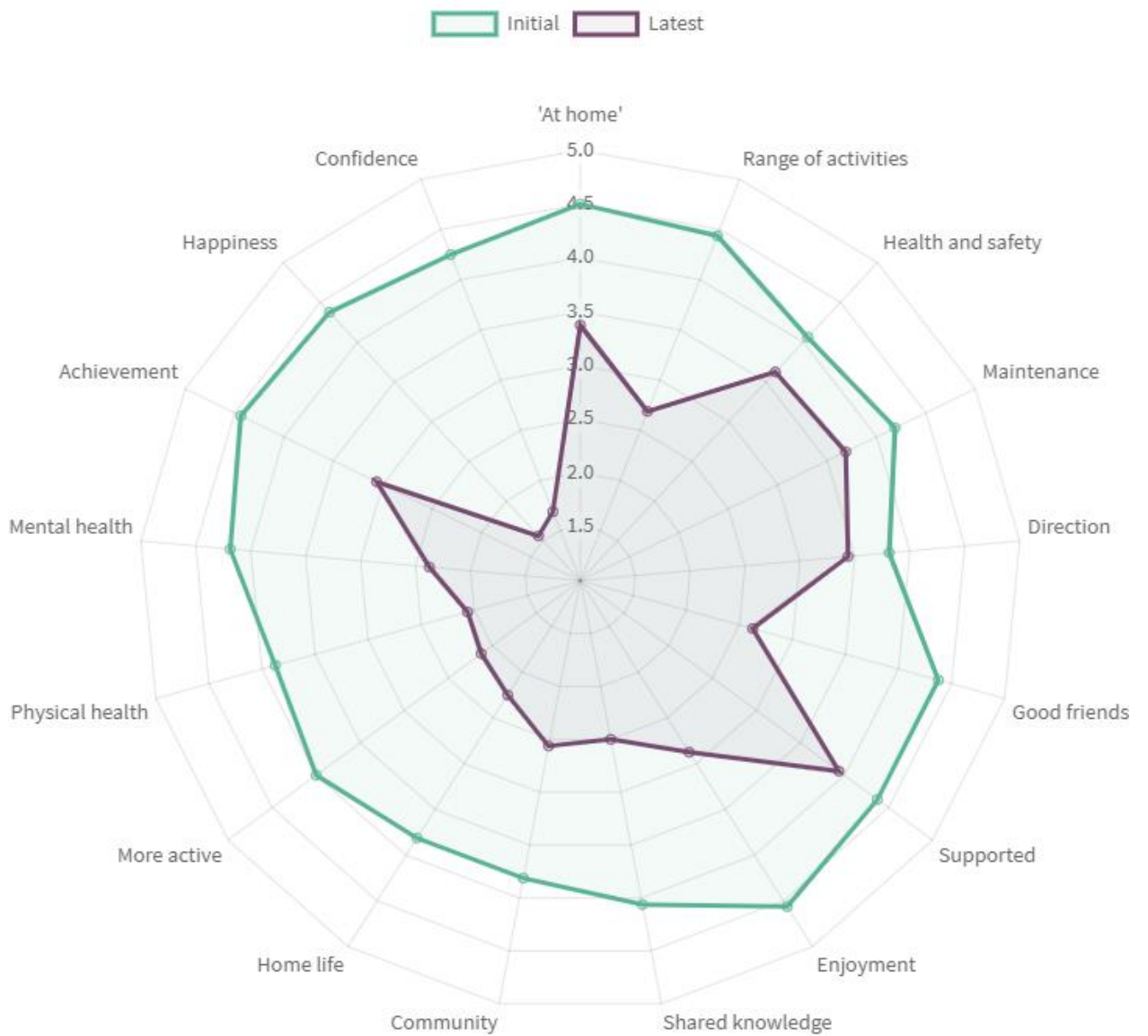
“Finding other things to do, missed the camaraderie and working with friends”

“I’ve missed mixing with the Shed members, I enjoy their company”

“Loss of social contact. Thanks to Geoff A & officers for all their hard work during and after lockdown”

“It has been the single most negative impact on my life in years”

**A Radar Chart of all Post-Covid responses, negative impact on all 17 statements.**



**“Closing the Shed was a significant personal loss in terms of camaraderie, and health - both physical & mental”**

## The COVID Effect

### The COVID Effect: Hard Findings

This section is an overview of how Shed closure due to COVID19 lockdown affected the 3 principal requirements for a stable Shed:

- Meeting Place
- Money
- Members

### The COVID Effect: Meeting Place



Our landlord agreed to let small numbers of socially distanced Shedders access the Shed during lockdown so long as no-one entered units occupied by neighbouring businesses. All powered equipment was switched off at the nearest outlet – including heaters, fridge, water urns etc. Early lockdown activity principally consisted of pairs of members tidying work areas and removing perishables, followed by a general clean down of available surfaces. Throughout lockdown intermittent access was required to manage Shed inventory such as moving equipment/ materials to Members' homes and storing future project material like donated tools, bicycles [for recycling] etc. Intermittent access was also required for maintenance of equipment and materials especially as the lack of heating, an ongoing roof leak, and continued lockdown exacerbated the dampness and mould growth. Latterly pairs of members worked to sanitise the Shed, post notices, set out distanced seating and workspaces, and set up reception facilities. Throughout lockdown it was necessary to keep tight control of keys to prevent attending numbers exceeding the government specified maximum allowed to meet indoors at different phases. Business meetings were held electronically by teleconference or Zoom, and day to day communications were via email and phone.

## The COVID Effect: Money



COVID killed our cash flow.

We occupy the Shed rent free giving us low fixed costs which is fortunate as our income in financial year 2020-21 plummeted [see headline figures left from OSCR returns]. Two windfalls to the Skeoch project, and a small Co-op grant, accounted for 68% of that year's income. Pre-covid, paid commissions were our main income stream – in 2019-20 we completed 287, in 2020-21 we completed just 25. We have also missed 3 coffee morning fundraisers which we would expect to have contributed around £3,000 more to our funds.

## The COVID Effect: Members

There have been no reported cases of our member's catching COVID let alone being hospitalized due to Covid. Lockdown kept many members sheltered and prevented all from attending the Shed but within a few weeks of re-opening we bounced back to almost 90% of our average pre-Covid figures, and our waiting list doubled.

In the 2 years leading up to COVID lockdown Shed membership had continued rise [as it had from Shed opening]; in January 2019 we had 66 sign-ups yielding 43 active members at lockdown we had 81 sign-ups yielding 46 active members. Coming out of lockdown we had 85 sign-ups [including 3 on membership waiting list], and 41 active members. We lost 3 active members when, early in lockdown, they decided to sell their homes and relocate to England near family support. Two of the 3 locating members were Shed Trustees and Officers; we were fortunate to have sufficient talent and interest amongst remaining members to fill these posts quickly. The other 2 members lost comprise one whose business became busy post-COVID and one who expanded his home workshop and resigned from Shed membership to release a place to a waiting list member.

The above figures focus on active members, that is members who can be expected to attend continuously but not necessarily regularly. Around 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of our active members only attend intermittently – some holiday/live outside the area for part of the year, some have family/work commitments which clash with Shed opening times, others only feel the urge to attend occasionally to catch up with news or to use specific equipment, and even regular members can be absent through ill-health, holidays, or family commitments. The most important figures for the Shed are peak and average daily attendance. At the time of the 2019 survey we had a peak attendance of 29 with a daily average of 23, during lockdown attendance was zero. In the 7 weeks after reopening Shed attendance rapidly grew to 24 with an average of 20. We know that deteriorated personal/family health has precluded the return of 3 members, and we suspect a further 2 members are not yet feeling sufficiently confident to return.

## The COVID Effect: Soft Findings

Analysis of the 2021 survey returns using Impactasaurus yielded individual radar plots of each return, and any summary tendered. The chart below shows part of the array. Note: points along the radials of each plot range from strongly negative feelings at the centre, through negative, neutral, positive, to strongly positive feelings at the circumference. The purple plot areas are a measure of the overall positivity of each respondent's feelings during the period of Shed closure. Row1, Column1 and R3,C5 returns are from respondents with areas of positivity: R2,C3 is a typical neutral return: R2,C6 is a highly negative return.



Each of the 17 radials on the above plots represents one of the 17 statements rated on each questionnaire

- Radials 1 to 5 [12 – 3 o' clock] represent the 5 Comfort statements [At home, Activity range, Health & Safety, Maintenance, and Direction].
- Radials 6 -11 represent the 6 Connection statements [Friends, Supported, Enjoyment, Shared knowledge, and Home life].
- Radials 12 – 17 represent the 6 Health & Well-being statements [Activity, Physical Health, Mental Health, Achievement, Happiness, and Confidence].

Aggregating the results of both surveys gives a longitudinal measure of the feelings of Dalbeattie Men's Shed members through their journey of joining the Shed to the end of Shed Lockdown [see over].

## The COVID Effect: Aggregated results

The radar chart below plots members' feelings at key periods over the 7 years that Dalbeattie Men's Shed has existed.



The red ring represents the baseline for every member at the time of his joining [ranging from Q4/2014 to Nov 2019] and sits on the neutral 3 radius.

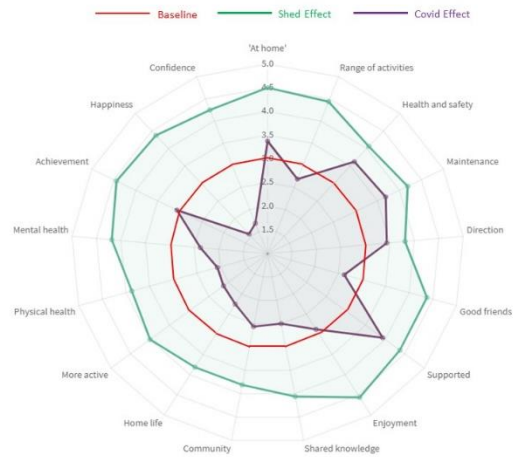
The 'Shed Effect' green ring represents the effect of joining the Shed as felt by members in Q1/2019. The Shed effect showed marked improvement over all 17 Statements [see 2019 Shed Satisfaction Survey, pages 2-10].

The 'Covid Effect' purple ring represents the feelings of respondents during Shed lockdown as expressed in the survey completed by members on their first week back in the reopened Shed [Q3/21]. The Covid effect presents as a reduction in respondents' feelings over all 17 Statements – in many cases falling below baseline, this is detailed in 2021 Post-covid Survey, pages 12-18, and summarized below under Comfort, Connections, and Health & Well-being.



## The COVID Effect: Comfort

Surveying Members feelings about how comfortable they felt during lockdown versus their time in the Shed was somewhat hypothetical but the statements were left in to provide a comparison. The relatively low reduction in statements 1 – 5 indicates that members continued to draw comfort from knowing that the Shed would survive lockdown and it would be there when the pandemic receded, albeit in a restricted protocol. The biggest dip recognized that during lockdown everyone’s range of activities were curtailed.



## The COVID Effect: Connections

Respondents’ feelings on all of the 6 ‘Connections’ statements [radials 6 -11] had deteriorated from how they felt in the working Shed. There was only 1 statement in this section where respondents still felt better than baseline and that was how they felt Supported by the Shed. In fact, this feeling was the highest aggregate score in the whole survey; it can be credited to officers staying in contact with members by sending out regular news/update emails, holding regular teleconference/Zoom meetings, and migrating some projects to member’s homes. An ITV Border “Border Life” production about the Shed and re-located activities during lockdown was well received by members and the viewing public. However, respondents did not feel that lockdown helped their home life, that was the lowest scoring statement in this section.

## The COVID Effect: Health & Well-being

The last 6 statements [12-17] were where respondents registered the biggest reduction in their feelings during Shed closure. The only statement where feelings did not slump below the base line was achievement; and this was entirely due to those members who were able to continue with Shed projects at home - getting them out of the house into the garden shed/garage, involved in meaningful activity with connections to other Sheddors and the community. Activity and Health suffered across the piece even though all members remained Covid free. Several members had health problems requiring emergency hospitalisation due to their inability to get medical attention/intervention before their problem became critical. The 2 most negative Statements over the whole survey were respondents’ happiness and confidence, and at the time of writing this report we still have members not confident enough

to return to the Shed even with infection precautions in place, and some returning members still bring their own refreshments and take their mug home each session.

## Survey Findings & What's Next

The positive effects of attending a Men's Shed are well known and recorded, equally so the negative effect of the Covid pandemic. So the findings in the 2 Dalbeattie Shed surveys could be regarded as mere confirmation of received wisdom. However, having the same demographic and location for the survey at very different and widely spaced times gives a longitudinal dimension to the results not previously seen, and surveying at a granulation of 17 statements with the option of additional written examples allows a finer analysis of underlying causation.

Looking at the big picture reveals measures which might not be immediately considered when a Shed is facing a major disruption. In Dalbeattie Shed the board carries out an annual SWOT [Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats] analysis. In retrospect this has focused on the 'hard' effects of a potential disruption. These surveys show that a discontinuity can also have major effect on the feelings of Shedders – for example when we considered losing our premises, we put effort into the practicalities and cost of finding alternative premises/funding streams, and into building a contingency fund. Perhaps we should also have contingencies for the pastoral care of our members such as improved communications, sharing out the problems/ opportunities/ assets.

Where next – After Board approval of the draft report it was sent to all active members for their information and comment. Lessons from the final report will be considered at the next Board SWOT analysis. Another board decision is to decide if/when to re-run the survey, when COVID and lockdown is a distant memory, to see if the 'Shed Effect' has recovered to what it was in 2019.

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