

Read 'awl' about it

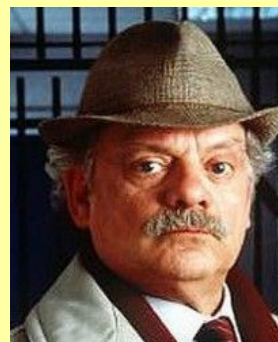
The Lockdown Newsletter from the Cannock Chase Shed

ISSUE No. 8



This week:

- What has been keeping our members busy this week?
- Japanese Joinery
- As we emerge from Lockdown...
- Quiz: Police Dramas
- Available projects – need something to keep you occupied?
- Humour
- Caption competition



If you print this newsletter, and would like a less colourful version to save on ink, please let me know, thanks.
Contact details are below.

Submissions and suggestions to:

annewallbank@talktalk.net

01543 520452

07526 636194

So what's been keeping us busy this week?

Pete Ross...

Here are three pics showing what kept me busy for an afternoon. Our neighbours' two 'noddling tortoises' had lost their heads - 'Corroded Fulcrum' is a little-known but potentially terminal coconut tortoise ailment.



Triage assessment...



...the operating table

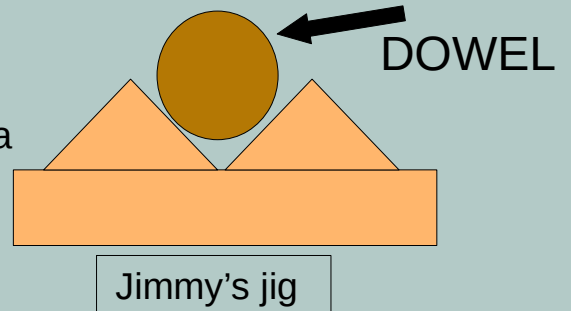


...and two tortoises happily noddling to each other in rehab.

Jimmy Allen, the shed's newest member, has been keeping himself busy working on a wood turned solitaire set. The first one he made was so popular that it has taken up permanent residence at Jim's daughter's house, so he's now working on a new set for himself.

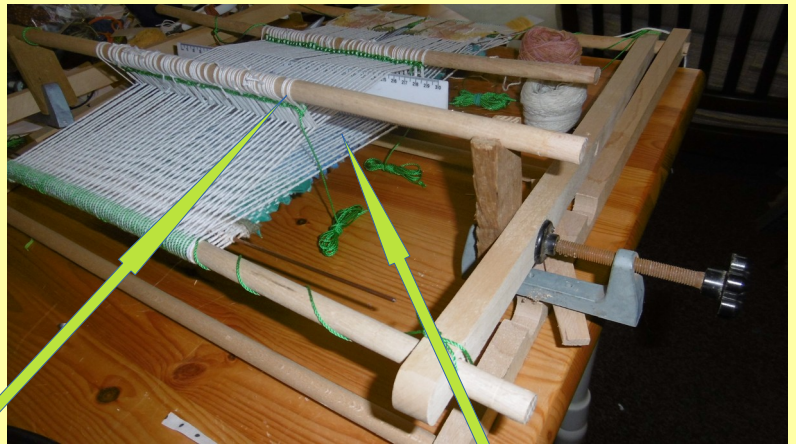
Jimmy has perfected his technique, and manages to make two pieces from one piece of wood, by shaping one piece on half the length of the wood, then reversing the position of the wood in the lathe so he can shape a second piece from the other half before separating the two.

Jimmy has constructed a jig to make drilling precise holes in the dowels easier – a square section piece of wood was cut lengthways, on the diagonal (using a bandsaw) creating two triangle sectioned pieces. These were fixed to a base, to make a 'v' to rest the dowel in whilst cutting it.



Anne has been making rather Heath Robinson adaptations to a weaving loom, (which works pretty well considering it is constructed from an old clothes airer).

The bit of notched wood that holds the heddle bar up (I'm sure it has a technical name), is held in place with a clamp, while Anne experiments with height and placement..

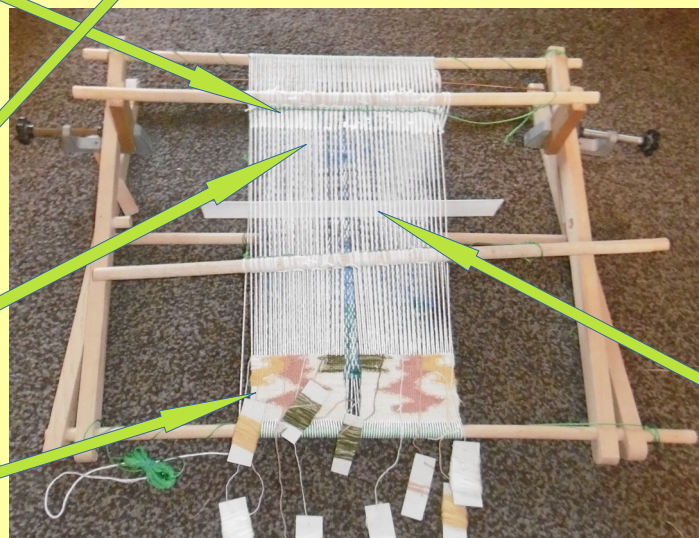


For those who are unfamiliar with looms...

HEDDLES: loops that lift up selected warp threads so the weft can be passed between them. These are attached to a **HEDDLE BAR**.

WARP: the threads that run top to bottom

WEFT: the thread that is passed from side to side.



SHED; the gap created between warp threads, when some of them are lifted up.

SHED STICK: is used to hold the upper and lower threads apart, so the weft thread can be passed through.

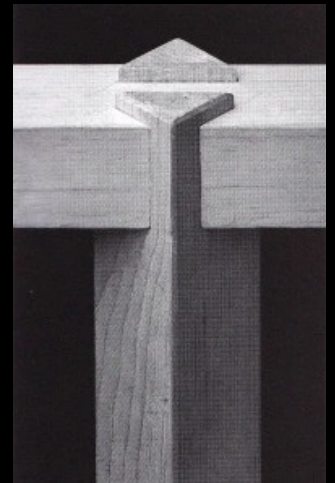
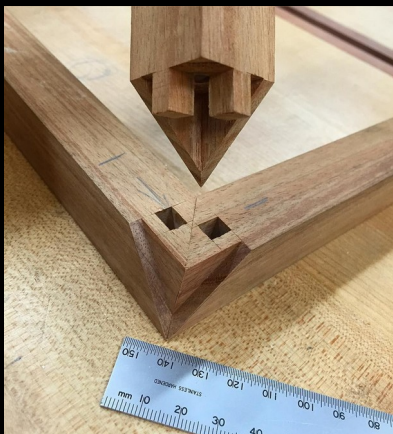
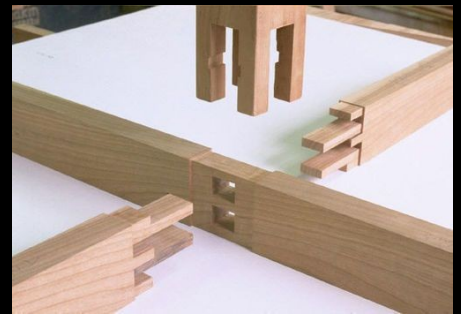
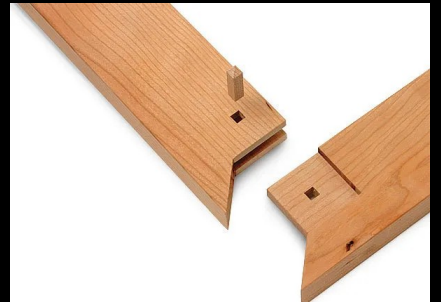
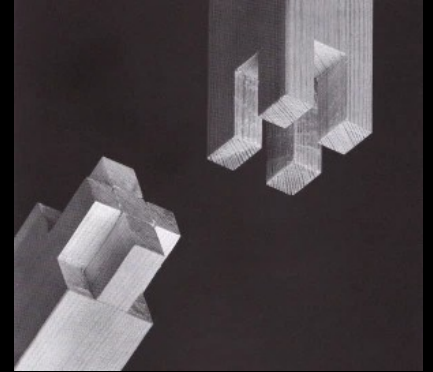
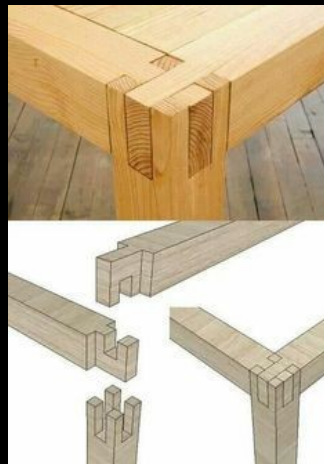
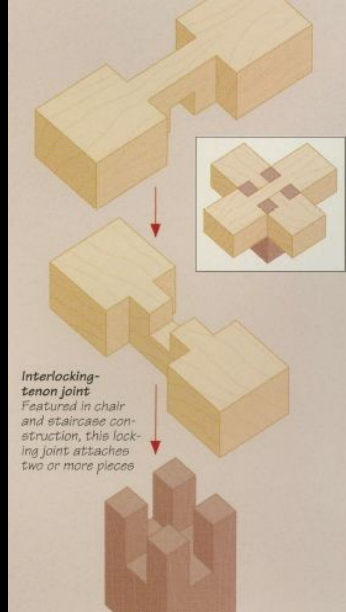
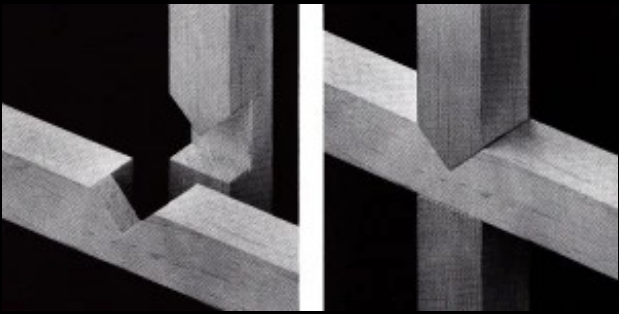
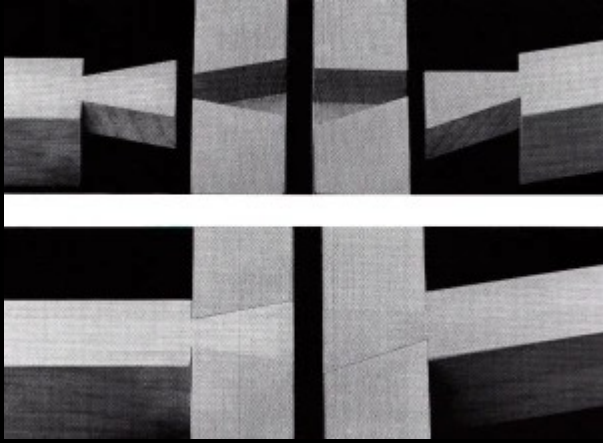
Anne's current project is technically tapestry, rather than weaving, as the weft threads completely cover the warp threads.

The next part of the project is to make a stand for the loom, so it doesn't take up table space, and can be used wherever the light is best -maybe even outdoors. .

Japanese Joinery

by Anne

The Japanese have a centuries old tradition of creating intricate joints that require no glue, screws or nails. I find it fascinating that something can be functional and visually appealing at the same time, allowing the joints themselves to be a decorative feature of the finished item.



AS WE EMERGE FROM LOCKDOWN

... What might happen as we “Unlock” the Shed

The government are starting to ease restrictions on our movements, but the Shed Committee have still been meeting regularly during lockdown using Zoom video conferencing.

The Committee have been active in assessing what conditions we may have to put in place, as and when we are permitted to meet again. This relies not only on government rules, but also our Museum rules, and what the Committee deems safe to operate for members in the space we have.

Our first stage was to produce a “Risk Assessment” to list everything that could happen in the Shed, and what risk that poses for spreading the virus. This will include any mitigation or restrictions we have to put into place to ensure member safety. This assessment has been written, but requires the Committee to agree on all the strategy we believe is practical, and to buy items of PPE and sanitisers. The UKMSA organisation has also produced some guidance on this stage, which we are using in addition.

The second stage will be to extract the mitigations from the assessment, and produce a bulleted list of rules that will inform every Shed member of the safety conditions we must adhere to, in order to meet government guidelines. We will call this the “Unlock Protocol”, or procedure.

The third stage, nearer the point at which we are permitted to meet, is to put up signage in the Shed, re-arrange where necessary, and disinfect all chairs, benches and equipment. At this point, and assuming the Museum is in agreement, we can invite members to return in a controlled manner. There will have to be a restricted number allowed at any one time, and this will be controlled by the Chairman on a rota basis. If we have offers from members to act as supervisors, then we could open on more days to allow more to attend per week.

I'm sure every member is really frustrated in not having the Shed facility available, nor being able to meet fellow members socially, but please bear with us at this time, and please abide by any rules that have to be put in place to keep you all safe. That is our duty of care.

Do please let the Chairman, Dave Shaw, know by email whether you could act as supervisor for a morning or afternoon session. The more we have, the more sessions we open. His email is david_shaw@sky.com.

Can you complete the titles of these TV Police Dramas?

Two of them are pictured but not listed – can you name them?

1. B_r_e_a_
2. I_s_e_tr M_r_e
3. T_e S_e_n_y
4. Z_C_r_
5. M_d_o_e M_r_e_s
6. D_x_n_o D_c_ G_e_n
7. T_e B_l_
8. J_l_e B_a_o
9. R_b_s
10. V_r_
11. H_a_t_e_t
12. T_g_a_t
13. S_e_l_n_
14. L_w_s
15. D_l B_n_s
16. A_h_s T_ A_h_s
17. L_f_ O_ M_r_
18. P_i_e S_s_e_t
19. H_n_e_l_n_
20. L_n_ O_ D_t_
21. N_ O_f_n_e
22. B_u_ M_r_e_
23. Ha_p_ V_l_e_y
24. B_o_d_h_r_h
25. S_o_t A_d B_i_e_
26. L_t_e_
27. F_y_e' W_r
28. E_d_a_o_r
29. A T_u_h O_ F_o_t
30. N_w T_i_c_



AVAILABLE PROJECTS

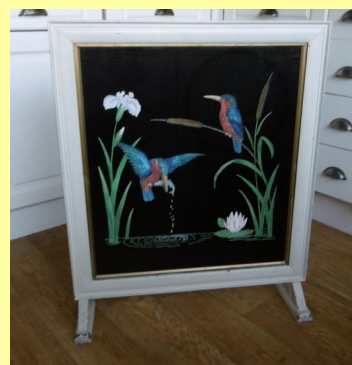
I have a large number of projects waiting for my attention. If anyone out there is looking for a project to keep themselves occupied, and you fancy a go at one of these, just let me know, and I can drop it round.

(Some of these are for myself, but others will be sold, and the proceeds donated to the Shed).



FIRE SCREEN / SIDE TABLE

I was planning to give this a general sanding, before painting it black, and putting something different under the glass. (for me)



FIRESCREEN

I was planning to sand this back to its original oak (for me). The frame is oak, but my grandma painted it white. (the picture, painted on silk, was done by my great aunt).

BOX OF MARQUETRY BITS AND BOBS

- anyone interested in this is welcome to it.



SIDE TABLE

I was planning to give this a light sand and to try to resolve it's wobbliness. (to sell) If the wobble can be fixed, I'll paint it and sell it with a couple of chairs, if not, I'll dismantle it and make something else from the bits).



DROP LEAF TABLE / TROLLEY

I was planning to sand this back to its natural wood colour (to sell)

I have 2 small 'workmate' type foldable benches, that were donated to the shed, if anyone would like one.



WOODEN SAMPLE BOX

This needs some repairs to the lid. Not sure what wood it is. (to sell)



BOX WITH STRAP LOOPS

Fully intact, just needs cleaning up. (Anyone know what the loops were for? Was it for a bicycle or motorbike?) (to sell)



CARD TABLE 1.

I was planning to sand this back to original wood colour and recover. (this is a good quality table). (to sell)



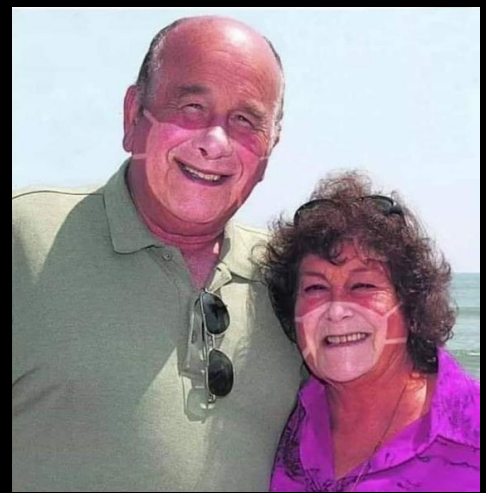
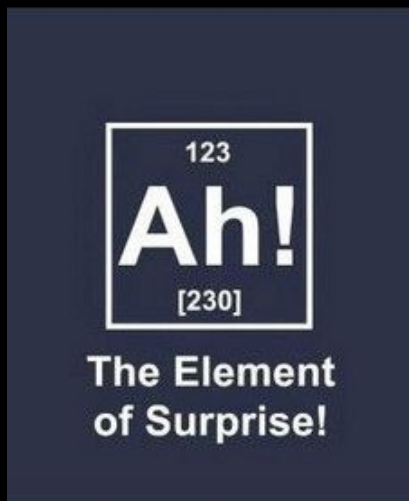
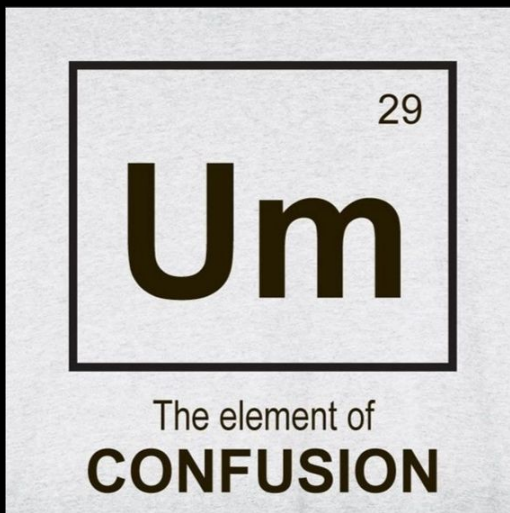
CARD TABLE 2

This is not a quality table. I was planning to lightly sand, paint black, and recover. (To sell)

INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE? PLEASE CONTACT ANNE – CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 1.

I ALSO HAVE:

- A 1930s Singer sewing machine, that needs attention to both machine and the wooden box it lives in.
- A Qualcast Panther push mower (that I would really like to use) that has seized.
- A box of acrylic paints – free to anyone who'd like it.
- A Guitar (Yamaha acoustic) again, free to anyone who wants it.



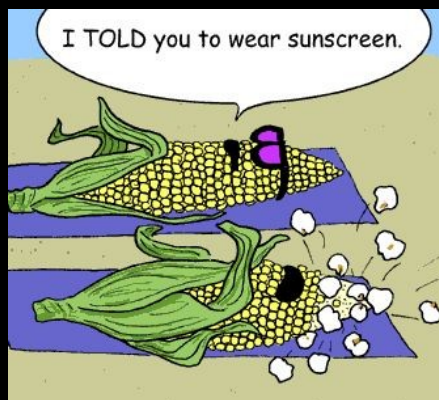
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I DOUBT TEQUILA IS
THE ANSWER BUT
IT'S WORTH A
SHOT

I'M NOT
MUCH ON
SEIZING
THE DAY. I
JUST KINDA
POKE IT
WITH A STICK.

Someone told me if
you hold a Shell up
you can hear the sea.

All I got was 6 years
for armed robbery



Caption Competition



"We only had 3 boxes left to stand on and I drew the short straw"



"Nice shirt Dave – I wondered where all the leftover fabric went...!"

Note from Avril: Please be aware that we have given our email addresses to the UK Men's Shed Association so that we can all receive up to date info from our Governing body, notice of the AGM (sadly cancelled for this year) contacts and other Shed related subjects. The back issues are available and make interesting reading. All email address are confidential so rest assured that only UK Men's Shed will use them.