



Hay Lodge Depot – a new community hub within Peebles supporting the physical and mental health of the adult Community, or just another cash cow?

Peebles and District Men's Shed have gathered the views of many people in the Community, and of groups helped in the past by our members. They are reproduced here in the following pages, with personal comments anonymised for privacy reasons.

A few words from the Tweed & Neidpath Practice:

The Tweed & Neidpath Practice want to acknowledge the good work that the Men's Shed does to help Men's Mental Health in the local area and we wish them well.

**Letters of support from our local Member of Parliament
and Member of the Scottish Parliament**



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Christine Grahame MSP

M4.02

The Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP



20 June 2024

By email and by post

FAO Peebles Common Good Trustees,

RE: Peebles and District Men's Shed

I have been involved with and followed the progress of Peebles and District Men's Shed for many years now and have twice tabled Member's Motions for debate in the Scottish Parliament to congratulate them on different aspects of their continuing evolution.

The presence of a vibrant, well-run Men's Shed in any Community is a real bonus, and I am pleased to support the many other Sheds within my Constituency, but for any such group suitable premises from which to operate are key to their success. Sheds generally require space for socialising, workshops space and space for crafting and modelling activities and of course storage for the materials they need for the many jobs they undertake.

I understand that my friends at Peebles and District Men's Shed have now received applications for membership from 195 local men, and women which is a remarkable testament to the popularity of the work they are undertaking within their community. During opening times, they can regularly have between 20 and 30 attendees, many of whom are simply seeking a bit of company away from their normal routines. In addition, the same Members regularly undertake work on behalf of other local voluntary groups such as Bonnie Peebles, Peeblesshire Foodbank and Tweed Togs free of charge. The benefits this can have on the physical and mental health of a community are vast, and the success of 'social prescribing' such as this is now well recognised and documented.

I also understand that their continued tenancy within School Brae hub has been placed in jeopardy due to development plans for that building but that they have submitted a business case for a peppercorn rent tenancy of the building known as Hay Lodge Depot, which is currently vacant and being marketed by Scottish Borders Council as a commercial let.

I would like to add my full support for this group in achieving their aim of an affordable tenancy in this building and look forward to monitoring their progress for many years to come. The Common Good Fund should know that using their built assets for the benefit of the Community, who collectively own them, can and should

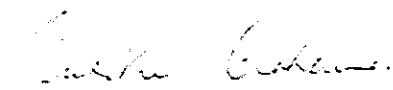
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be about more than simply charging a rent for their use. The benefit the Community of Peebles and its wider environs can expect from a continuing successful Men's Shed in its midst will far outweigh any rent which may be collected on this building.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Christine Grahame'.

Christine Grahame MSP

Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale Constituency



Rt. Hon David Mundell MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA



Letter of Support

May 2024

To whom it may concern

PEEBLES MEN'S SHED

As the Member of Parliament for Tweeddale, I am writing in support of the proposed tenancy for the Peebles Men's Shed in the Hay Lodge.

Up-and-down Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale Men's Sheds provide an important space to connect and converse through the repairing, repurposing and even creation of objects. Ultimately, improving wellbeing, reducing loneliness and combating social isolation.

That in Peebles is no different and should it be lost - even temporarily - I know this would be acutely felt by the many who benefit from it. Accommodating the Men's Shed within the Hay Lodge, to me, seems like an appropriate use for a Common Good property.

Kind regards

RT HON DAVID MUNDELL MP

A strong voice for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale & Tweeddale

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**Portfolio of support from Groups that Peebles and District
Men's Shed have worked with in the past**

Peebles and District Men's Shed are critical in the wellbeing of men aged 18+ in the local area. As part of the Scottish Men's Shed Association they have created more than carpentry and metalwork in recent years, advocating for funding for the men's mental health movement, working with local MSPs to raise the profile of the Men's Shed as a wellbeing movement and supporting projects such as Men Don't Talk - a play which was written by me, with significant input via engagement sessions with 10 men from Peebles and District Men's Shed.

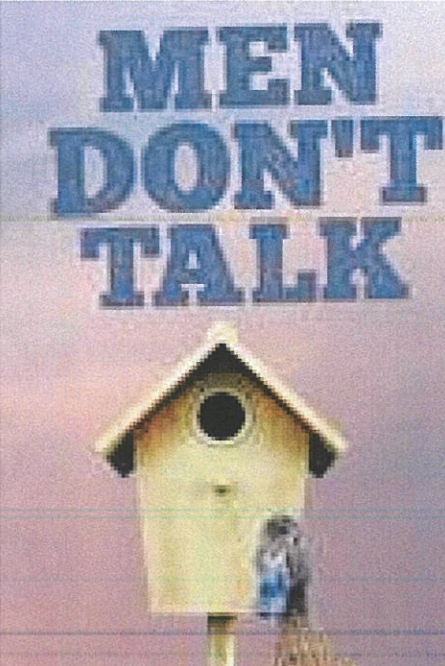
The Sheds involvement in this play which has been performed as a reading in local theatres such as Eastgate Theatre (2021) and Duns Play Festival (2022) lead to the making of a film (2022) and now a tour of Scotland (2024) this autumn. The men from the shed were praised in the Scottish Parliament for their work in advocating and promoting men's mental health and wellbeing and working with suicide prevention charity Inspiring Life to bring this play to a wider audience. The play will tour Scotland including a special performance at the Scottish Parliament in Autumn 2024 by Genesis Productions Ltd. The shed has increased its profile through this project and a move to this new site will further solidify the shed's position if they were to move in conjunction with the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival and capitalise on the surrounding publicity - locally and nationally - that their involvement in the theatre piece has garnered and further motions in Parliament such as the 2022 motion which raised their profile through the theatre piece -

The shed deserves a permanent base from which to build on its success. The men proved they can be dynamic and swift with setting up a workshop (as evidenced in the excellent facility they created in the Ex-Servs property) however uncertainty about the future of the building has hindered their ability to proceed with changes they wished to make to the existing building which in turn hindered their ability apply for further funding and progress as a shed.

A permanent home at the Hay Lodge Depot will offer them the chance for much needed stability to make the real changes and engaging in the local community even more fully and to build on existing success. Being sited near the Health Centre will also encourage more men to 'pop in' and for the wellbeing aspect of the work that they do ('health by stealth') to really make a difference. Being near the local (91) bus stop/route will also, hopefully encourage men from out with Peebles area (Stobo/Lyn)

to engage with the shed more easily. It's a fantastic opportunity to really 'join up' the wellbeing and suicide prevention aspect of the work of sheds with our local GP practices and Health Centre. In addition, there are two primary schools near the Hay Lodge Depot (Kingsland and Halyrude PS) as well as supported living facilities such as Riverside House (Eildon) who would, I am sure, be keen to build community links with the shed, on this side of the River.

Clare Prenton
Theatre Director, Writer
MEN DON'T TALK
www.clareprenton.com



**MEN
DON'T
TALK**

TOURING SCOTLAND OCT / NOV 2024

- 18 & 19 OCT, AN TERNAN N BHAL, ISLE OF BRUHL
- 23 OCT, EASTERN THEATRE, GLASGOW
- 24 OCT, HEART OF HAYLOCK, BONDERS
- 26 OCT, EASTGATE THEATRE, PERTH
- 28 OCT, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, HOLYROOD
- 30 OCT, THE LEMON TREE, ABERDEEN
- 02 NOV, FLUTIA, ORKNEY
- 03 NOV, BURNAY, ORKNEY
- 05 NOV, STENNESS, ORKNEY
- 06 NOV, THE BARN, ABERDEENSHIRE
- 14 NOV, PAISLEY ARTS CENTRE
- 15 & 17 NOV, SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE, EDINBURGH
- 18 NOV, VICTORIA HALL, CASHMARTY

The Peebles Men's Shed built an A frame/trolley to accommodate the Tweeddale Astronomy Society's 12 inch Meade telescope. This enables the society members to simply wheel the telescope out of its storage building at Kailzie gardens, in a ready to use condition. Having this trolley avoids having to dismount the telescope from its tripod, to move the equipment and then reassemble it (a three person task,) twice per observing session (i.e. once to get it out and once to put it away at the end of observing). This makes a huge difference and has enabled us to bring the telescope into use rather than it sitting unused in its building all evening as it is too heavy for one or two people to move. The folks at the men's shed did a fine job on this, using plans we supplied, and asked only that we re-imburse them for the cost of materials. The whole project was completed in less than a month and the society is extremely grateful for their help. In many ways this a super example of symbiosis between voluntary groups. The astronomy club needed a telescope trolley but did not have the skills to build one while the Men's Shed had the resources to help us and it gave them a meaningful project on which to spend some time. It was that rare thing, a truly win-win situation. On behalf of the society, I commend this organisation as worthy of your support.

Dr John Davies,
Tweeddale Astronomy Society



Hi Malcolm,

I'm delighted, on behalf of Tweed Theatre, to lend support to your plans for the future developments.

Two years ago I directed "Wojtek" , the story of the soldier bear who fought with an artillery unit of the free Polish forces in WW 2. It was essential to have some artillery shells for the scenes portraying the bear carrying ammunition supplies for the Polish army during the storming of Monte Cassino. The Men's Shed provided the materials needed inexpensively.

It was a pleasure working with the people at the Shed who were always positive and helpful and knew exactly what was required. The fake shells produced were completely authentic and were created quickly and with the minimum of fuss.

My experience of working with the Shed was extremely positive and I am certain that it plays a significant part in the collective life of Peebles and, with any luck, will continue to do so.

Paul Taylor
Director
"Wojtek"

Good morning Malcolm!

Very happy to big up the Peebles Men's Shed!

The Peebles Men's Shed has been an invaluable support to the Martens on the Move project, building us ten pine marten den boxes which have been distributed among our Tweed Valley volunteers. This helps the expansion of the Borders pine marten population and enables the volunteers to monitor these engaging animals, contributing valuable information to our project. The Men's Shed was so professional and produced beautifully made den boxes with remarkable speed and good cheer and it is always a pleasure to stop by for a cuppa and catch up. I wish them every success with the new premises and hope they will be able to make yet more den boxes for us – without their support and hard work we would be hard pressed to get sufficient den boxes for the scope of our project.

All the best, Victoria

Victoria Chanin

Project Officer, Scottish/English border, Martens on the Move

Vincent Wildlife Trust

Tel: (0044) (0)7494 176 152

Mail to: victoria.chanin@vwt.org.uk

Website



As a newly formed Biodiversity group located at Peebles Golf Course and with limited resources at that time, we approached the local Peebles and District Men's Shed to see if their members would be interested and willing in supporting our project. This project was to increase biodiversity across the golf course in a number of ways one of which was to instal a few bird boxes around the course. We were delighted that within a few weeks of our approach they produced 35 bird boxes suitable for a wide variety of different birds along with 6 bat boxes. This exceeded all our expectations and not only did they provide the boxes but even helped to instal them around the course. We are indebted to the local Men's Shed members some of whom continue to be involved in our biodiversity work. This local Men's Shed is a great facility to have and one that I am sure our biodiversity group will be able to call upon again when we require further help and I know that we are not the only wild life group to have also benefited from their services. They are certainly making an impact locally and I cannot praise them highly enough for the work they do.

Neil MacIntyre
Biodiversity & Ecology Group (Peebles Golf Club)

Support for Peebles Men's Shed

Thank goodness for Peebles Men's Shed!

Tweed Togs is very grateful to Men's Shed for their reliable skill base, local knowledge and friendly collaboration. Tweed Togs, a children's clothing bank based in Peebles, was so fortunate to have the support of the team from Peebles Men's Shed when relocating at short notice. Help was needed to reconfigure a very limited space to accommodate extra storage resources. As well as expertly planning every available centimetre the storage units were custom built to fit all the numerous boxes and containers. As a result, our service resumed ahead of schedule and all referrals were completed and delivered on time. A great team effort!

Susan
Tweed Togs



Other projects undertaken by PDMS and other significant events.



Kitchen servery designed and fabricated free for The Food Foundation at the Victoria Park Centre.



Timber washed down in a Tweed flood recovered and drying out to be used by wood turners.



Visit to Scottish parliament to hear Member's debate on the benefits Men's Sheds bring to local Communities.



Ex Service Men's Club bar stripped out ready for Men's Shed to move in.



Sourced and built new shelving for Peeblesshire Food Bank in their previous premises



Ornamental bench on School Brae refurbished by cutting and fitting new oak slats.



New sign made for The Secret Garden



Celebrating Christmas at Peebles Golf Club

Portfolio of support from Members of Peebles and District Men's Shed

Peebles & District Men's Shed exists to support anyone over 18 to improve mental wellbeing and overcome social and sometimes familial isolation whether from loss of relationships through death or retirement, social development issues from Autism or similar (my own case), or whatever reason.

Members have access to a fully fitted wood-working workshop, metal working facilities, art and craft materials, a model railway group, stained glass equipment and a small library of books and DVD's. They can get involved in community projects the Shed undertakes or do their own, either giving them the opportunity to share skills and experience.

In short, the type of caring, supportive organisation integral to any compassionate and concerned community.

The existence of The Shed is under threat as the current landlords intend to develop the existing premises via demolition and with the scarcity of premises in Peebles a future home is very uncertain.

The availability of the Hay Lodge Depot is an opportunity for the people of Peebles to support the Shed and help it find a longer-term sustainable future through the use of an existing community asset. In return the Shed members intend to improve and develop the Depot, retaining an increasingly valuable asset in the community and in a way which will allow it to support other community groups.

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The Men's Shed is a vital support to men like myself, who for various reasons find themselves living alone. The companionship I found at the Shed helped get me through a lonely and stressful period in my life. It is vital that the Shed has premises that ensure its future. Peebles needs The Men's Shed.

Peebles Men's Shed both needs and deserves a permanent home in a space that's fit for purpose. I have worked as a community mental health nurse in Edinburgh for 30+ years and am acutely aware of the vital role Men's Shed provides on an informal basis for their member's mental health. Peebles is semi-rural and many men exist in isolation, Men's

Shed brings them together with a purpose. The space needs to be in a central location and the move to the depot would be ideal.

So many of us in Peebles and the surrounding area have benefited from the contact, chat, cups of tea and general advice and help that only seems to be available at the Men's Shed.

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I fully support the bid to relocate to Hay Lodge Depot. It's an ideal location. With the support of the Common Good Fund I would hope that a long term lease can be achieved. The Men's Shed means a lot to the local community not only as a place to enjoy various crafts and hobbies but also for the social aspect of meeting others in the friendly atmosphere of the shed. Due to the redevelopment of the current location we urgently need to secure a suitable replacement and I believe that this location fits the bill.

I fully support the proposed move to Hay Lodge Depot. The local Men's Shed is doing a tremendous job in supporting people in the local community. It offers support to members to combat loneliness and enables them to chat over a tea or coffee. Also, they can learn new skills and gain a new purpose in life. Members have done a tremendous job in modernising their area in School Brae. They can bring these skills to ensure that Hay lodge Depot is an ideal new home for the Men's Shed. The premises in School Brae are not ideal because of the well documented problems. A permanent new home for the Men' Shed will enable it to develop further. It has been of great benefit to many people and should be fully supported in their new venture.

I thank a lot the Shed and all the people I meet there. It's a very important moment of the week for me when I go. I enjoy being surrounded by so friendly people.

People are not only friendly, they are very respectful with the others and take care of their security and their comfort. I'm helped to learn new skills (wood turning) It's very stimulating. And when I'm not at the Shed I go on thinking about what I'll do next time and how. I'm rather new at the Shed but it already takes a big place in my life.

Thanks a lot to everyone. (Note : English is not the first language for this contributor)

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I believe that the presence of a successful Men's Shed in Peebles and the work they do by far outweighs any income that would be achievable for this property.

The Peebles Men's Shed provide a much-needed focus for men (and women) to socialise in a welcoming environment and allows them to undertake productive activities – both physical and for mental health.

I believe the men's shed should be allocated the depot so that it can continue the great work it does, not only for men but women also. I recently lost my wife last year and joined the men's shed, to try and take my mind off things, I found everyone very friendly and welcoming and I look forward to spending time there. It would be a great loss to the community if it had to close.

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This lease would secure the Men's Shed in a place that would be eminently suitable for the type of activities that we carry out and would have some local parking making it much easier to arrange the delivery and collection of larger and heavier items. The Men's Shed is required to support those people who may be otherwise isolated or lacking in direct personal support of family or friends. It also provides space for people to carry out hobbies that may be impractical in their home environment, giving them access to machinery and advice to carry out their hobbies.

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Without being melodramatic, becoming a member of the Peebles & District Men's Shed was a life-saver for me. After the death of my wife in November 2017, I found myself in a very dark place, with suicidal thoughts. I made the decision myself to do something about it, and became a volunteer usher at the Eastgate Theatre. This was towards the end of 2018 - a year I wanted to forget. Through this voluntary work, I met Malcolm Bruce the secretary of PADMS, who persuaded me to have a look at the shed. I signed up to join on this visit and have not looked back since. Despite the uncertainty of the future of the Community Hub, the shed members have worked hard to do what they can to help each other - the camaraderie is second to none.

My opinion is that we should be allocated the lease of the Depot in order to continue the good work being done for the community and more importantly for Mental Health.

Two aspects of the move are, the most beneficial use of Common Good assets, and the creation of an enterprise that provides a unique range of equipment and facilities for men (and women) to meet socially and through their common interaction, to learn new skills or the revival of dormant ones. No other such organisation really facilitates this in the Peeblesshire area we are at risk of losing all of this due to the Impending closure of the current premises.

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The Peebles and District Men's Shed is set up as part of a national and international organisation to promote the improvement of their member's health, combating social isolation and working with other local groups. Although the organisation has a title of "Men's Shed" it is open to, and indeed welcomes, women members. There are no restrictions other than members must be over the age of 18. The proposed alternative building at Haylodge Depot would be improved at no cost to Peebles residents by the Peebles and District Men's Shed members if they are successful in their application. It is highly likely that given the proposals to demolish their current premises, the Peebles and District Men's Shed would face imminent closure without an alternative location. The impact of closure to members would be severe. Closure would also have an impact upon residents of Peebles and the local District. Peebles and District Men's Shed is a registered charity, established for the benefit of members and the local population. The proposed premises are ideal for the needs of "the Shed." Their current premises are not fit for purpose and will be demolished. I fully support the application for "the Shed" and would not support a proposal to have alternative residents purely to seek a commercial rent when the premises are in need of significant work. Charities that support the improvement of physical and mental health in the local community at no cost to local residents should be supported by councils and subsidiary organisations. They should not face closure because of lack of lateral thought.

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The men's shed has given me the opportunity to learn from other members who are only too happy to share their knowledge and skills. I cannot think of another single group that accommodates so many varied interests in an environment that is welcoming, encouraging and educational. I learnt to turn wood at the men's shed and have produced some lovely pieces for family and friends. In the space that developed

that skill I also witnessed emotional support being provided to the wife of an ill member, debate and engagement around our future plans with genuine investment in Peebles future and the plans for our existing space, secret plans to help a member celebrate a significant birthday and the mass consumption of Jaffa cakes at a level I suspect unmatched in any other group. All while a tiny train was having a full landscape created around it by the train team. It's a fantastic place and we should be supported to find and establish this in a permanent and suitable premises. The depot would be perfect but will require work. Work we will complete as a team and that will provide useful working space and an area to continue our record breaking Jaffa cakes eating and emotional support.

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I got involved with the Peebles Men's Shed's contribution to the Pine Marten Project - working with a group of new people (mainly men of a certain age), I was able to improve my woodworking skills in a well equipped workshop, while doing some volunteering for a really worthwhile cause. That particular project has huge scope for expansion in the Borders, and the Peebles Men's Shed could play an important part in helping to make it happen. There will be many other opportunities for the facilities, the skills and the energies of the Men's Shed to make a difference around Peebles, so I think investing resources there makes a lot of sense.

I am a senior citizen residing in Innerleithen. I am a part time carer for my wife who has several health issues. I too have age related health issues and my mobility is affected. As a result, our social life is affected and the days of partying and dancing are past. Most of our time is spent at home and travel is restricted. Several years ago I learned of a Men's Shed starting in Peebles and I saw this as a way to get out of the house for a few hours every week and to meet people of my own generation. I found it extremely beneficial to both my physical and mental health. There followed a couple of years at the start up where we had difficulty in accessing suitable premises but finally we had the opportunity of renting rooms in the former ex-servicemen's club in School Brae. Unfortunately, covid lockdown resulted in the Shed being closed and subsequently essential upgrades to the premises meant that the front entrance was locked and access was only via a rear door which was hazardous to someone like myself with mobility problems. As a result, committee members arranged Zoom meetings which kept me in touch with the Shed and it's members. Recently the access via the front door

was allowed and I started returning to regular weekly meetings only to find that the future of the building was being assessed and that the demolition and rebuilding of the premises was the most likely outcome. Again we found that the Shed had to search for alternative premises and the possibility of renting Hay Lodge Depot seemed to be the only viable option available to us. Failure to secure these premises would appear to be the final nail in the coffin for the Men's Shed and I know that it would personally have an adverse affect on my well being and without doubt adversely affect many others.

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The Men's Shed provides a valuable service to the community in meeting the needs of older inhabitants (both men and women) of the town. There are no other suitable premises available to the shed members in the town. If they cannot secure a tenancy of these premises there is a strong possibility that they would need to disband once work commences on the replacement of the School Brae Hub. This would be detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of the current members and those who would want to join in future. The Haylodge Depot is a common good resource. Granting the Men's Shed rental of the premises at a nominal rent would provide far greater benefit to the community than the anticipated income from a commercial customer.

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The Men's Shed would be able to support other local groups if they could secure these premises.

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The Peebles and District Men's Shed is a remarkable community hub that significantly enhances mental health and overall wellbeing for its members. This organisation provides welcoming space where members, over the age of eighteen, can meet, share skills, and work on various projects.

Mental Health Benefits

The Men's Shed offers an invaluable outlet for combating loneliness and isolation, which are prevalent issues among men, especially those who are retired or living alone. Through regular meetings and collaborative activities, members can build meaningful friendships and support networks. The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose helps to

alleviate feelings of depression and anxiety, fostering a positive mental outlook.

Wellbeing Enhancement

Beyond mental health, the Shed promotes physical and emotional wellbeing. Engaging in hands-on projects, whether it is woodworking, gardening, or crafting, provides a productive and satisfying way to stay active and mentally engaged. The environment encourages continuous learning and skill development, which boosts self-esteem and a sense of achievement.

Overall, Peebles and District Men's Shed is more than just a place to work on projects; it is a sanctuary for enhancing mental and emotional health. By fostering social connections and providing opportunities for creative and physical engagement, it plays a crucial role in improving the quality of life for its members.

In 2019, I was diagnosed with PTSD, and have found The Men's Shed really helps me combat my mental health, as well as preventing me from becoming socially isolated.

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Peebles and District Men's Shed has proven to be an invaluable asset to our community, particularly in terms of promoting mental health and overall wellbeing. The Men's Shed offers a welcoming space where members can come together, share skills, and engage in meaningful activities. This sense of camaraderie and purpose is essential for maintaining mental health, especially for those who might otherwise feel isolated or disconnected. The potential closure of their current building for three years is a cause for great concern. Such a lengthy disbandment would not only disrupt the activities that many have come to rely on but also dismantle the supportive community that has been carefully built over time. The Men's Shed is more than just a physical space; it is a lifeline for many, providing a sense of belonging and support that is critical for mental wellbeing. Relocating to the Hay Lodge Depot would see the Men's Shed improving the structure of the Hay Lodge Depot by utilizing the members of the Shed, and local Trades people. Housing the Men's Shed at the Hay Lodge Depot would be a significant step in ensuring the continuity of their invaluable work. The new facility could provide a more permanent and better-equipped home for the Men's Shed, allowing them to expand their activities and reach even more members of the community. This improvement would not only

safeguard the existing benefits but also enhance the capacity of the Men's Shed to contribute to the wellbeing of its members.

In summary, Peebles and District Men's Shed is a cornerstone of our community, offering essential mental health and wellbeing support. The threat of a three-year closure poses a serious risk to its members, but relocating to the Hay Lodge Depot could offer a promising solution. Investing in this new space would ensure that the Men's Shed continues to thrive and serve the community for many years to come.

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Men's sheds provide a valuable meeting place where men can share skills, provide practical input to local projects while benefiting personally both physically and mentally.

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Men's shed are proving to be a very valuable facility all over Scotland. Men are renowned for not being good communicators. It can be a tough world for them. They are brought up to be strong, to be the breadwinner, to make sure the family is well looked after, to sort out many house-hold problems. What happens when things fall apart? They often feel inferior, ashamed and unable to share their problems.

Men's shed aims to give all men - those with problems and those without - a comfortable, non-judgemental, safe environment to share and discuss their issues, but also to just chat with other guys, make things, provide a service to the local community, enjoy a cuppa and have a pleasant time. Peebles Men's Shed is one of the oldest in Scotland. It has a proven track record of making men feel comfortable and making things for the community like pine marten boxes for Glentress Forest. It has even been the inspiration for a play about to go on tour all over Scotland about helping men talk to each other and express their feelings.

The shift to Hay Lodge Depot would be a massive positive move for The Shed whilst development takes place at the old Ex-Service Men's club. It would give the members stability and enable them to continue their good work for each other, and also for the community. It would help keep men talking - between themselves and with other local organisations. That's a powerful thing.

I hope the SBC and the Common Good Fund look favourably and grant the lease to the Peebles Men's Shed. If they were to do that they would have made a major investment in the local community. The alternative of The Shed not having a home for some years would be amazingly

depressing news for a good number of men who have found good companions, soul mates and comfort.

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Further to your email below I am writing in support of your proposed move to the Depot. I strongly believe that the men's shed provides a vital point of social contact for many men especially widowers. I wish you every success with your application.

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The proposal to move the shed to the premises opposite Hay Lodge seems to me to be the most sensible suggestion I have heard in Peebles for some time. I would like to make the following points in support of my view.

The population of the town has changed from people working in the textile industry to one with a growing number of people choosing to spend their retirement in the area skewing the population to the elderly. Within this group there are many who are still very active and keen to establish themselves in the community by taking up a new hobby or continuing one in the company of others who are similarly inclined. Not for them pipe and slippers by the fireside but activities like model making, wood or metal work artistic activities or many other subjects. This keeps them active and interested and in an increasing life expectancy this is a vital factor in maintaining good health both physical and mental. The proposed site is excellent in terms of space and location and would mean a lot to extra activities provided.

In short, the Men's Shed move to the new site would be an excellent proposition and one which should be given the full support of SBC. In the short term it keeps members physically and mentally healthy and in the long term it will save the horrendous costs of caring many of them!

The Peebles Men's Shed is a highly valuable community resource and an important social space. Relocating to the Hay Lodge Depot would secure the future of the Shed and would complement the aims of Peebles Common Good. Utilising the Hay Lodge Depot as a place where the community can meet, learn new skills and socialise will support the wellbeing of the Peebles community and will provide a community-led carpentry service which will be of value to other charities and organisations in the town.

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I am fully in favour of the Men's Shed relocating to the Hay Lodge Depot. The Men's Shed provides a meeting place for like-minded men who wish to pursue their hobbies and interests in a supportive environment.

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I strongly support the leasing of the Hay Lodge Depot to the Peebles & District Men's Shed. It has emerged as a very valuable community resource. In our volunteer activities of promoting and conserving the threatened natural resources of Peeblesshire. To this end we have benefited from Pine Marten boxes which have been locally sited, although the bigger batch of boxes was made for a much wider charity led, South of Scotland initiative. There has also been a steady stream of boxes for small mammals and birds. As we focus more and more on the reusing, repairing and repurposing for the benefit of all it seems to me that there is an even greater need for the kind of community efforts that the Men's Shed provides.

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The MEN SHED is a well-established group which is beneficial to many members. Personally the Men Shed has been a valuable group to my wellbeing, which gives me an outlet to peruse my interests.

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I have only been a member of the Men's Shed since January. I have found the Men's Shed to be an amazing asset for Peebles on many fronts. Good companionship - especially for people that are lonely. Friendly/helpful - good for shy or reserved people. An amazing array of machines and tools that are kept in good order. Giving a new hobby to many through DIY and going on to be creative through wood turning, making wooden spoons or sculpture. The Men's Shed should be on prescription at the doctors for a number people instead of popping pills.

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As a long-time supporter of the Men's Shed, and as someone who suffers from depression and anxiety - with a need and desire to create

and work with my hands, the Peebles Men's Shed community is an invaluable support network. With that in mind, I would like to wholeheartedly support the offer to lease the Depot to the Men's Shed. Men need a space to talk side by side while using their hands and having a cuppa!

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To me and probably a lot of others, the Men's Shed has been a godsend. When I first walked in I didn't know a soul, but I was greeted with open arms and immediately made to feel very welcome, everybody involved and that attend are a great bunch of people, a very eclectic bunch granted, but everybody is equal and each has a different story as to why they do attend. Besides the friendships that are forged there, there is also a fantastic workshop and skill set that members benefit from greatly. Personally the workshop for me is fantastic as I do not have the room at home to be able to do some of the projects that I have been able to do there, also learning new skills from other members is fantastic. I really do hope that the Men's Shed is given the go ahead to be able to continue, as it means so much to so many, so fingers crossed that you offer the lease of the depot to them so we are able to continue the hard work that so many have already done to bring this together in the first place.