Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood Men's Shed (KBMS)

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)
SCIO Number SC054094

Trustees Annual Report 2025 – 2026



Approved by G Stewart (Secretary) on behalf of Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood Men's Shed on 10th September 2026



1. Reference and Administrative Details

- **Charity Name:** Kirkmuirhill & Blackwood Men's Shed (KBMS)
- **Charity Number:** SC054094
- **Principal Address:** 30 Thornton Road, Kirkmuirhill, Lanark, ML11 9QE
- **Current Trustees:** Chair – Alan Watson, Secretary – Graham Stewart, Treasurer – Tom Arlott, Others – Bill Dewar, Paul McGuigan, Alex Hunter, Ian Brown

2. Structure, Governance, and Management

- **Type of Governing Document:** - SCIO Constitution.
- **Trustee Selection:** trustees are appointed by the process of election by eligible members, at the AGM.
- **Organizational Structure:** The Board of Trustees generally meet on a monthly basis where the business of the day is discussed and actions agreed upon. Any Shed Member can also attend, and contribute to the meeting.

  Minutes of the meeting are posted on the Shed's social media pages with paper copies filed accordingly. Any member can request an individual copy of the minutes to be sent out to them via eMail or as a paper copy.
- Sub groups are set up, as and when required, to carry out roles & tasks relevant to the specific project or requirement.

3. Objectives and Activities

3.1. Charitable Purposes: The Organisation’s main purpose is consistent with furthering the achievement of sustainable development. The Organisation’s Purposes are the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended.

3.2. In more detail - the development and creation of the Men's Shed covering Kirkmuirhill & Blackwood and surrounding area. The objectives of KBMS are to provide access for men to opportunities for increased citizenship within their community; provide a social space for men; provide Men's Shed facilities for using, sharing and learning skills; to be a workshop and social centre for local residents and to help members maintain their health and wellbeing, to tackle isolation and loneliness experienced by men in the community; make new friends and enjoy working on a range of projects, We will also be making a contribution to

our local community by way of assisting in local community and environmental projects whenever the need arises.

3.3. Whilst the above infers a bias towards men and in particular tackling isolation & loneliness, KBMS in no way exclude women nor indeed anyone else over the age of 18, from membership and from taking part in any aspect of the Shed's activities. Indeed we already have a number of female members that make use of the Sheds facilities.

3.4. Our Men's Shed came into existence in 2019 (with charity status secured in 2025) and it very quickly became obvious that there was an urgent need to seek alternative & additional accommodation to allow for the much needed expansion that the purchase of the pub would provide. It was testament to the success of the Shed that feedback gained through consultation highlighted the need for such an expansion.

3.5. Main Activities: *What we actually did this year :*

- "The primary focus this year was the structural renovation of the former pub [Kirkmuirhill Inn] to create a safe, fully accessible community workshop and social area"

3.6. Volunteer Contribution: A great deal of the renovations work was carried out by the Shed members themselves. Certain assumptions are made in an attempt to financially quantify the impact this has had on the Men's Shed.

- Total Number of renovations weeks (Oct 2025-Mar 2026) – 20;
- Hours per week based on 4 Members at 15 hours per week – 60;
- At minimum weekly wage - £732.60 per week;
- Total Cost in-kind contributions for the period - £14,652.00;

3.7. The value of our members & volunteers cannot be lauded highly enough, as they are essential to the success of the Men's Shed in day to day activities, in the renovations and in other projects (e.g. the Community garden, 'Buddy' project).

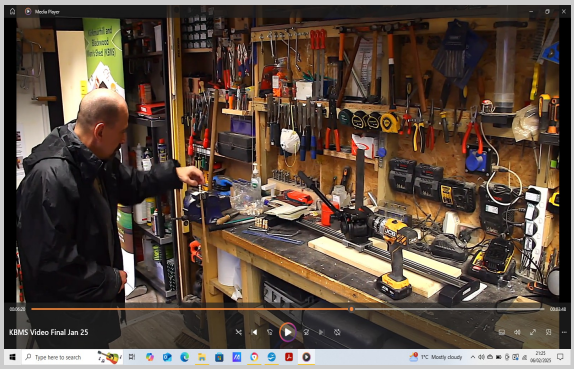
4. Achievements and Performance

4.1. Case Studies: actual comments from Shed Members, supporters & attendees -

- *'I would say I couldn't be living my life as it is now without the Men's Shed because it is a huge part of my life now.'*
- *'I was kind of left on my own. Then I heard about the Men's Shed*

and what they were doing and I went, 'I need to do something' because I was on my own in a sheltered housing complex.'

- *'The Shed and Shedders were a great help to me because it gave me a purpose and somewhere to go.'*





- *'all I can say is, anybody out there that has got loneliness problems, not getting out the house, bereavements, get yourself along to the Men's Shed 'cause the Shed has been my lifeline and it could be yours.'*
- *'it's been a place where I've made lots of friends. None of the people in the Men's Shed I knew before I joined so every one of these people that I now call friends were strangers to me.'*
- *'……. suffered a massive stroke in his early fifties, which made it challenging for him to find suitable social activities - other clubs were unwilling to accept him due to his condition. However, at the Men's Shed, he was welcomed warmly by the other men.'*

4.2. Our 2025 promotional video which includes many case studies and accolades from the Shed & Community Members, can be found on You Tube via this link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ42MARu8V0

4.3. Shed Members participated in the major renovation of the local primary school's community garden which had fallen into





disrepair over a number of years. Picnic tables, garden benches, planters, raised beds, the renovation of the telephone box, fences and 'living' roof are just some of the activities undertaken by the Men's Shed, in partnership with the the community and primary school children.





4.4.KBMS involvement in the Garden project rewarded the Shed with glowing accolades from organisations such as **'Keep Scotland Beautiful – it's Your Neighbourhood'** who stated '…….*one key player is the Kirkmuirhill and Blackwood Men's Shed who are delighted to share their skills with the children at St. John's Primary School. In fact, it could be stated that the Men's Shed are a key ingredient to the garden's success, and they certainly raise the garden's profile....*'

4.5. KBMS annual, free 'Breakfast with Santa' event was once again a huge success in 2025 with over 70 local children and guardians attending. A light breakfast was provided followed by a visit to Santa's Grotto & the Elves Workshop.



4.6. Our 'Buddy' sessions encompass intergenerational projects which bring people of different age groups, such as young people and older adults, together for mutually beneficial activities to build relationships, foster understanding, and combat social isolation and age-related stereotypes. To date, a number of very successful sessions with school children from St John's Primary, Blackwood which entailed the making of bird boxes, shelves for their potting shed, preparation and painting of picnic benches and building of a raised bed area. The following is the school feedback on the project.

Collaborating with the Men's Shed – Pupil Feedback

Pupil Focus Group Comments

I learned lots of new skills and things that I would not have learned in the classroom.

It was great working with someone from our local community and it's helping to improve our garden too.

I am proud that we made our own bird's house. We all worked together to make it.

The pupil feedback highlights positive outcomes from community collaborations, such as gaining new skills, improving the garden, and feeling proud of teamwork. This shows that community partnerships offer valuable learning and foster connections. The next step will be to include community member feedback to gain a fuller understanding of the collaboration's impact. Focus groups are particularly useful for capturing in-depth qualitative insights and giving students the opportunity to express their thoughts in a more personal and detailed way.

How did working with the Men's Shed members make you feel about learning new skills?

- *"It helped me to grow in confidence."*
- *"I am more confident about my woodwork skills."*
- *"It helped with skills of joinery."*



The photographs from the collaborative woodworking activities with the Men's Shed highlight the effective mentorship and hands-on learning approach, where children are guided by experienced adults. These activities help develop essential practical skills, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking. The positive interactions and guidance foster confidence and independence in the children, providing a rich learning experience that supports their growth in life, learning, and work. This collaboration underscores the value of community involvement in education, creating a supportive and engaging environment.



What did you learn from the Men's Shed members that you think you couldn't have learned on your own?

- *How to use different tools*
- *Join benches*
- *Use a circular saw*
- *Markings for bolts and nuts*

Did working with the Menshed make you feel more connected to your community? How?

They were so willing to work with us and come in to help

One of the members is Cameron's papa – he lives next door to me.

5. Financial Review

5.1. Overview

Grant Income (Restricted Funds) KBMS secured the following grants during the reporting period :

- South Lanarkshire Council administered REF for the purchase of Kirkmuirhill Inn & associated Service Costs £87,916.58
- Local Energy Scotland CARES for Solar PV System £9,200
- Foundation Scotland Nadara Wind Farm towards renovations £25,000
- On Path Kype Muir Wind Farm towards renovations £25,000
- The National Lottery for Heating System & Consumer Units £16,512
- Robertson Trust towards running costs £2,000
- Corra Foundation towards running costs £2,850
- SoLWEC towards Solar PV system £2,500
- BKCG for Breakfast with Santa event £415

Fundraising income and donations (Unrestricted Funds) KBMS successfully raised income, mainly from craft fayre & products sales, undertaking paid community work during the reporting period, plus donations, amounting to c. £6.011

Current bank balances at the end of the reporting period is £34,977.56

Unrestricted Funds , Unrestricted funds held in the bank at end of reporting period is £5,715.70

Restricted Funds balance at end of the reporting period is £29,261.85

committed to Renovation/Fit-out works of £25,968.06 and Annual Running costs of £3,293.70

5.2. Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The minimum level of unrestricted funds held in the KBMS bank at all times will be £1,500 in order to cover any unforeseen emergencies or unexpected needs. This figure is reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Board Trustees.

5.3. Deficit/Surplus: Restricted funds surplus at the end of the reporting period are committed for 2026/2027 as detailed in 5.1. above (see Restricted Funds) and this equates to planned spending from grants income.

6. Achievements and Performance

6.1. Building Our Home: The Renovation of the former Kirkmuirhill Inn

The main focus of this reporting period was the ambitious transformation of the former pub into a permanent home for the **Kirkmuirhill & Blackwood Men's Shed**.

KBMS has made significant strides in revitalizing this local landmark, ensuring it remains a functional asset for the community. Key achievements include:

- **External Restoration:** KBMS successfully completed essential repairs to the building's structure, including roof maintenance, roughcasting and the installation of solar PV panels to ensure long-term environmental and financial sustainability.





- **Creating the Workshop:** The interior is being reconfigured from a commercial pub bar space into a multi-purpose workshop. This included upgrading the electrical wiring, plumbing and heating systems as well as kitting out the workshop with work benches and storage racks.

- **Accessibility Improvements:** To ensure our Shed is inclusive to all, KBMS will install removable ramps which will be used at the main front door entrance and internally where floor levels are at different heights. Together with the existing features, this makes the property fully accessible to all.
- **Social Area Improvements :** the former lounge area has been upgraded to include a sink / tea area as well as storage units. Filing cabinets have also been added to provide storage space for documents etc.

7. Impact on the Community

Whilst the renovation is a physical task, the "output" is the well-being of our members. Despite the ongoing construction, KBMS has:

- **Combating Isolation:** Provided a space for local men, members etc. (and guests from other Men's Sheds) to meet whenever the Shed is open (currently all day Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & every Thursday evening), reducing social isolation and improving mental health through "shoulder-to-shoulder" conversation and activities.





- **Skill Sharing:** Facilitate informal training / awareness sessions where members shared expertise in, woodworking and other practical skills, for example.
- **Community Projects:** Even during the build renovations, KBMS members completed small projects for other local groups, such as making garden picnic benches or building planters for the primary school garden and for local residents.

Trustee's Note: *"The sight of the old pub being brought back to life has created a renewed sense of pride in the villages. It is no longer just a derelict building; it is a hive of activity where the kettle is always on and the tools are always busy. We have literally raised the bar with this property renovation and last orders are a thing of the past."*

7.1. Grant Acknowledgement: KBMS funders, during the reporting period, include The National Lottery Community Fund, Local Energy Scotland CARES, Robertson Trust, Corra Foundation, South Lanarkshire Council administered Renewable Energy Fund (REF), SoLWEC, Foundation Scotland Nadara Auchrobert & OnPath Kype Muir Windfarms.

8. Plans for Future Periods

Following the successful structural and aesthetic renovation (to-date) of the former **Kirkmuirhill Inn**, KBMS focus for the coming year will continue with "Building the Shed" in addition to "Growing the Community." Our key objectives for 2026/27 include:

- **Building the Shed**
  - renovation of the Finishing Room
  - building of external wood storage sheds
  - repurpose the existing metal garage
  - groundworks
  - relocating the original Shed (Shed1) to the grounds of our new premises

- **Growing the Community**
  - increase the number of Shed Members in particular those who attend the Shed on a regular basis (since we purchased the pub in October 2025 KBMS has seen an increase in membership of 11)
  - At the date of publication, current membership is 67 with regular attendees of 12-15 members on each of our opening days
  - expand the 'Buddy' project roll out to other local schools and youth clubs
  - provide 'pop up' shop facilities whereby other local crafters can display and sell their products
  - create a 'museum' type display where old tools are on show
  - organise further social events bringing Shed members together
  - continue to host the free, annual KBMS Breakfast with Santa event providing local children and their guardians with a light breakfast followed by a visit to Santas grotto and the Elves Workshop

9. Official Grand Opening

Once the final interior fit-out is complete and all health and safety certifications are secured, we plan to host a **Community Open Day (May 2026).** This event will invite local residents, donors, and partners to tour the facility, see the transformation first hand, and encourage new memberships.

10. Expanding Our Reach

- **Diversifying Skills:** With the workshop fully equipped, KBMS aim to introduce new specialized sessions, including e.g. wood-turning, to meet our Members needs.
- **Intergenerational 'Buddy' Projects:** KBMS plan to partner with local schools or youth groups to pass on traditional skills, fostering a stronger connection between the "Shedders" and the younger generation.
- We will continue to use our promotional video to raise awareness, within our communities and further afield, of what KBMS Shed has to offer and to encourage new members to join up & attend Shed activities - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ42MARu8V0

11. Operational Sustainability

- **Energy Efficiency:** We will begin monitoring the impact of our newly installed **solar panels and battery storage**, with the goal of reducing our carbon footprint and reinvesting energy savings back into workshop materials & equipment and Shed activities.
- **Revenue Generation:** To ensure the Shed remains self-sufficient, KBMS will continue with small-scale social enterprise opportunities, such as selling member-made products (bird boxes, planters garden furniture etc) at local craft fairs and to local residents & organisations.
- From the outset (and for the foreseeable future) there is no membership fee levied for KBMS membership. All running costs are self generated through merchandise sales using recycled materials (mainly wood) and grant awards.

12. Health and Wellbeing Focus

Building on KBMS core mission, and in conjunction with the South Lanarkshire Shed Network & the Scottish Men's Shed Association (SMSA) KBMS intend to host guest speakers and workshops focused on **Men's Health awareness**, providing a safe and informal environment for members to access vital health information alongside their practical projects.

- KBMS will introduce a confidential Welfare Hardship fund, designed to provide short term financial aid to Shed members, where appropriate.

- KBMS will continue with our Active Shedders (Walking Tours) project to further encourage active, physical activities in promoting both physical & mental health – You Tube search ' Kirkmuirhill Men's Shed' - https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=kirkmuirhill+men%27s+shed



- KBMS will continue with Social Outings providing members with the opportunity to visit other Mens Sheds & local attractions, participate in games nights and attend social get togethers, including participation in the Castle Douglas annual Soap Box race.





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