



# The Midland Line Midland Men's Shed Newsletter

JUNE 2020  
ISSUE NO 103

*Blokes, jokes, mates and more*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Well another month has come and gone and for us some good things and some a bit frustrating.

Good that the government has relaxed some of the Covid 19 restrictions allowing us to at least plan the reopening of the workshop this is now planned for Wednesday 3rd June. The plan we have drawn up has quite a few rules about Social Distancing, Hygiene protocols, Attendance recording and Cuppa Time. Guys going to the workshop must obey these rules or you will be sent home.

Not so good is the outlook for Social Tuesdays. At this stage the space restrictions only allow us to have 45 in the hall and totals allowed to be in one place stands at 20 so at this juncture it is a no go. But rest assured we are keeping a close eye on things and will move as soon as we are able.

The zoom meetings are being attended quite well with a bit more structure being introduced makes it more interesting.

Thanks go out to all those sending stuff to Kevin to keep us all amused and to Kevin for keeping up with it all.

That's all for this month but keep up keeping in touch with each other and hope we have more good news soon.

*John Griffiths*

President

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## COMING EVENTS:

- June 16th "Reptiles" - Eric McCrum - **CANCELLED**

**The following events will depend on when Men's Shed resumes:**

- July 21st 10th Birthday
- August 25th "Cape Horn or Bust" - Fran Taylor
- September 15th "Sandakan Death Marches" - Bob Coventry
- September 23rd "Ageing Disgracefully" - Swan Active Beechboro
- December 15th Christmas Lunch

## MEMBERSHIP STATS:

### ZOOM SESSIONS

### MAY

Total participants for the month

83

Average participants per session

20.75

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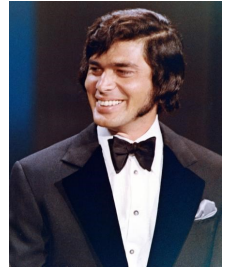


## THOSE WHO MADE IT:

- **Keith Lawton**

Back in my early days of trying to become famous I met and worked with many who did.

On one occasion walking into a dance hall to setup my gear to play in my rock band, a rather polite fellow stopped me and asked for directions to the next town where he said he was performing. His name was Gerry Dorsey and he was here just to collect a transistor from a member of the Blue Flames the backing band of Billy Fury a big star at the time and we were the support group. The member of the Blue Flames was a guy named Clive Powell - he became Georgie Fame. A few months later Gerry Dorsey became Engelbert Humperdinck.



Another gig as support to Denny Lain and the Diplomats. great guys we didn't have to set our gear up, they said use ours, we had to there was no room left! Plus there gear was fantastic! Real nice guys, 2 months later they released their 1st record under the name of The Moody Blues. Denny Lain later went on to be Paul McCartney's side man in Wings.

We did a lot of shows with top performers, Freddy and the Dreamers [we knew Freddy and lots of gigs together] Joe Brown and the Bruvers, The Rockin Berries, Dave Berry and the Cruisers.

Met lots of famous artists but never got famous, the leader and singer of the last group I played in Cliff Nelson and The Trafalgar's, I learned a few years ago he was the Entertainment Manager on the QE2!!!!

I did not play for many years until I found another band, a bunch of oldies which I enjoyed until my shoulders and arthritis stopped me. Thanks Shedders, my last attempt at fame

## JOKING OF COURSE:

*I was struggling to get my wife's attention?*

*So I simply sat down and looked comfortable.*

*That did the trick.*

*Out bicycling one day with his eight-year-old granddaughter, Carolyn, he got a little wistful.*

*"In ten years," he began, "you'll want to be with your friends and you won't go walking, biking, and swimming with me like you do now."*

*Carolyn shrugged, "That's okay, because in ten years you'll be too old to do all those things anyway."*

## IT'S ALL IN THE SURNAME:

Both "Mac" and "Mc" are prefixes that come from the Irish word "mac" meaning "son." As surnames were Anglicised, the 'a' was gradually lost in some names. Names beginning with "O'," stemming from "Ó" meaning "the grandson of" or "descendant of," are still among the most common in Ireland.

## CHEROPHOBIA:

Cherophobia is a phobia where a person has an irrational aversion to being happy.

The term comes from the Greek word "chero," which means "to rejoice."

When a person experiences cherophobia, they're often afraid to participate in activities that many would characterise as fun, or of being happy.

## SELF ISOLATION STORIES:

### PETE'S POEM

- **Pete Arnell**

Four down, and at least Four, maybe Five, more to go.  
 Now I'm beginning to worry, as my wine stocks are getting low.  
 But Sco-Mo has given me \$750 to spend on whatever I please.  
 Essentials like Butter, Bread, Eggs, or an assortment of Cheese.

But as I am Lactose Intolerant, those items I will try to avoid.  
 Because I don't want to aggravate or inflame my Haemorrhoid.  
 I could put it away, ponder my choices, and spend it at a later date.  
 And wait, for this Horrible ,insidious, deadly Covin-19 virus to abate.

I could maybe save it up, and book a lovely Princess Holiday Cruise.  
 But then again, I could just spend it on lots and lots of booze.  
 I could donate it all to a Cat's home, or another worthy cause.  
 Or buy a suit of Red and White trim, the sort worn by Santa Claus.

So what shall I do!, how do I spend this stimulus Handout?  
 Squander it, or spend it wisely, there should be no doubt.  
 Oh! Dear what a Problem, what a Dilemma, what a fix I'm in.  
 Should, I give it all to my, family, to my loving Kith and Kin.

A decision ,a final judgement, must be made.  
 I've made up my mind, I will not be swayed.  
 And its this, to Dan Murphy's I must fly,  
 I must be quick, as another \$750 ,is due in July.

### A SECOND HOLIDAY

- **Keith Donetta**

During this period of house arrest, Sylvia and I have enjoyed a second holiday.

Last year we travelled to Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Holland, Belgium and Britain over a period of two and a half months. We travelled through mainland Europe with very close friends, a German couple. This holiday was a most enjoyable ramble with our own car, staying wherever we wanted to go. No pre-planned bookings.

Sylvia took copious notes during our travels in the form of a diary and we both took many photos on our iPads.

In this current time of enforced stay-at-home, Sylvia is producing a very large and detailed scrapbook of our travels and has enlisted me to type up her handwritten notes and print out all sorts of stuff from the internet for her.

The result is that we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves reliving and reminding ourselves of our fantastic holiday of late last year.

And we now have something to bore visitors silly with, when we are finally allowed to entertain again.

## ZOOM SESSIONS:

The Zoom Sessions are held each Tuesday morning at 10a.

You will need a camera and mike on your computer, tablet or mobile phone to be part of the session.

At 10a log into:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76725679779?pwd=UWdJYW9TV2Fqa0tGdUMxb0xTY3ZDQT09>

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## WHAT TO DO NEXT?:

- **Pete Arnell**

Finding things to do, to stimulate the mind, or improve one's practical skills during this period of isolation, can prove to be rather difficult. To learn a foreign language for instance, can be frustrating, When you find your pronunciation, after checking with Sari, is completely wrong. Having said that, I find that I have perfected the language of the Bushmen of the Kalahari, with all my TUT TUTTING and CLICKING sounds I make at the TV. I'm reduced to just making these guttural or rasping sounds, after I was told that my shouting obscenities and expletives at Cooking shows, or innumerable and annoying reality shows, that we are subjected to on a daily basis,. Don't I realise that you are shouting at a inanimate object who cannot hear you, but to make matters worse, you are disturbing the neighbours.

So I've started to experiment with all the things in the fridge and pantry, to come up with different recipes, Like Duck à la Banana, but without the Duck, but use Sardines instead or use Spaghetti in Shepherds Pie, or field mushrooms, stuffed with grated pickled onion, infused with Vegemite and Sweet Chilli sauce [not my best idea I must admit]. But my latest effort, is I think a winner. Sauerkraut Omelette, with a Paprika based sauce. This incidentally is better than prunes to help ease constipation. It was during my time in the kitchen, that I accidentally spilt some Tomato sauce on a paper towel, seeing the mark it made, led me to my next enterprise, I poured HP sauce onto a paper napkin, folded it in half, then opened it out to reveal a design, which was just like a Rorschach ink-blot. I now spend many an hour Psychoanalysing the images, and I'm quite amazed at some of the analytical results. However the question now arises, are my interpretations of the images correct, are they true? To eliminate any doubt, I'm now going to design and build a Polygraph Machine or Lie Detector to establish if I am right in my reading of the HP sauce blots, That should keep me busy for a couple of days.

I've tried other activities to while away the time, like Origami, or paper folding, but my Swan, looked more like a Platypus with constipation. I've also tried Ikebana, or Flower arrangement, but the results were rather disappointing. When all you have at your disposal are 3 plastic roses and some plastic fern. I've thought about redecorating the house, but that is as far as it got - A THOUGHT. The same applied to learning to play the Ukulele. Now I know my attention span is slightly greater than a goldfish, [Well I think it is !!] so I decided to keep my grey matter moving by learning, in its entirety, the Soliloquy from Hamlet by heart but by the time I reached the line "To sleep, Perchance to Dream". That's exactly what I wanted to do, have a Granny nap. So I then determined to learn Pi to 20 places, but only got as far as 3.141592, when I thought what's the point. [I hope someone gets the Pun]. So what next ? What shall I try next to occupy my time, perhaps someone could suggest something. Nothing too Physical, bearing in mind my advanced years, and nothing too intellectual, bearing in mind I don't want to overburden the few brain cells I have left.

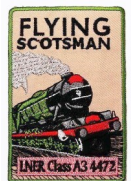
HELLO!!!, Did I hear mention Wine making, Now your talking ,I Can do that. LEAD ON MacDuff.

## FLYING SCOTSMAN:

- **Keith Donetta**

When discussing the Flying Scotsman, it is necessary to decide if you are talking of the train or the locomotive. The Flying Scotsman train is a service provided between Kings Cross station in London, and Waverley Station in Edinburgh. This service started in 1862 but was not officially named until 1924. It still runs today with high speed trains that complete the 393 miles in 4 hours at speeds of up to 125mph.

The Flying Scotsman locomotive was a London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) Class A1 (upgraded to A3 in January 1947) built in 1923. It was merely 1 of the 5 locomotives that pulled the train at different times. These A1 Pacific locomotives were not initially outstanding machines.



In 1924/25 at the British Empire Exhibition in Wembley, London, an A1 was displayed as the most powerful locomotive in Britain. Alongside it was a much smaller Great Western Railway (GWR) Castle class, named 'Pendennis Castle' (Built in August 1923 – the 7th of 171 Castles). This was also advertised as the most powerful Locomotive in Britain.

A trial was arranged between the two companies. They each loaned the loco, plus a crack crew to the other company for trials on their tracks. The result was a humiliation for the LNER Pacific class. They could not hold the speed nor compete with the economy of the Castle. As a result, the LNER Pacific's had their valve gear seriously modified which made significant improvements.

The Flying Scotsman went on to be the first steam loco to break the 100mph speed record OFFICIALLY on 39th November 1934 with electronic timing. (Thirty years after the GWR 'City of Truro' (built 1903) broke it UNOFFICIALLY in May 1904 using stop watches.

## FLYING SCOTSMAN - CONTINUED:

- **Keith Donetta**

The locomotive was sold into private ownership in 1964 and has had a chequered career since then. It has visited USA, Canada and Australia. In Australia it broke another world record. The longest non-stop run for a steam loco of 422 miles, in August 1989.

It was in Western Australia that she met up with her old adversary, 'Pendennis Castle', brought down from her home in Dampier, when they were close coupled to pull several tourist trains in 1989.

Currently, the loco, recently fully rebuilt and restored, runs extensively throughout Britain on the many preserved railways run by enthusiasts.

It is generally considered the most famous steam locomotive in the world. I personally believe 'Mallard', another LNER locomotive (built in 1938) Class A4 to be the most famous. This is the loco that broke the world steam locomotive speed record at 126mph in June 1938 with a 61-year-old driver at the controls. It has never been broken. In typical British fashion, the locomotive burnt out a main bearing at the completion of the run and had to be towed back to its shed

## A HISTORY OF MY PERSONAL SHEDS AND HOBBY PLACES:

- **Paul Brady**

With a bit of thinking time available recently, I thought an interesting contribution could be based on how we got started being fascinated with hobbies and special places that we use to occupy ourselves.

For me, I think I started quite young with cut-out books, then model ships & planes.

Using a small, spare bedroom initially with a piece of plywood as a firm base on the single bed as a bench, I made models from cardboard, then Balsa wood. A friend then got me interested in photography, so I had to find another space in our home which was suitable. The old coal cupboard was not being used for coal anymore, so I cleaned it out and made it light proof and installed a wooden bench. My friend, who had TB, was getting rid of most of his gear including dishes, frames, an enlarger and some paper and chemicals, needless to say this kept me very busy for several years printing photos and developing film.

In 1955 I left school and went out to work. As an apprentice electrician I attended Technical College one day a week, where I had access to machinery for wood turning. I developed a liking for this and therefore had to construct a "Shed". With my father's help, I built a small brick shed with an iron roof and made a good job of it. I wired it out for power and light, as this was now my trade, and I used an old washing machine motor to drive a small Lathe. For several years I made table lamps from natural wood pieces and sold them.

As time moved forward, my music lead to forming a small band and we practised twice a week in the Village Hall which was only a few yards away. The hall was to be a hobby home for six of us village boys. Activity went from motor bikes, to gig playing and girls !!

After a few years I got married. It was 1962 and we lived in a Council House where I bought a lovely new garden shed, about 6ft wide and 10ft deep. This was a very good shed for all the tools etc. and seeds and stuff. After a spell as a professional musician in Germany, I returned home to the UK and got a job as a Laboratory/Workshop Technician in a Physics Department which had a lovely fitted out workshop with a small lathe and other mechanical machinery.

As time again moved forward, we bought an old house in the village of Holcombe and I moved my wooden garden shed to the front of the house. This was used by my stone-mason mate, Jim Peppard, who repaired most of the stone walls around the house. Jim used the shed as his "Lunch Place" and my little girls loved having lunch in the shed with him.

In 1974 we emigrated to Australia and bought a house in Bladon Way, Swan View. This home had a good shed which my wife used as a sewing centre. We eventually sold Bladon Way and built a new home in Swan Road, Swan View and, of course, I had two small sheds - one for a workshop and the other for gardening stuff. We were very happy there for 22 years. Then we bought a block of land from the Catholic Church at Bourke View, Jane Brook. We had a Peter Stannard home built and I ordered a steel shed approximately 10m x 14m with 3 phase power. This shed is currently used for my family's storage, although I do have a good bench and some power tools.



## SOMETHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

- **Ray Lewis**

"Kevin's put out the call again. He wants something for the next newsletter. I wonder who else will respond?"

"Pete Arnell, perhaps? The two Keith's, Donetta and Parks? Probably!"

"Who else? Harry Bardon with one of his movie quizzes or Dave Savage with his tortured words, twisted out of recognition?"

"Let's hope he hasn't included one of his 'deliberate' mistakes."

"Can't think of anyone else, offhand."

"Well, I suppose I had better step up to the plate and get writing. Only problem is, what do I write about this time?"

"I suppose I could compile another crossword. No! That's too much like hard work! Thinking of all those clues and answers. Too much like hard work."

"Mmmm, how about a word sleuth. That only requires a list of suitable words."

"Countries, perhaps? Or places in various countries?"

"How about the names of different alcoholic drinks? No, not in a newsletter. That might encourage people to try them all. Wouldn't want to have that on my conscience!"

"Pete always writes something which I find interesting and often amusing. Often a poem. Couldn't hope to replicate that. I'm no poet! I wonder what he might do this time? Just have to wait and see, won't I?"

"I suppose I could steal a march on Harry with questions about films or film stars. No! Then I would not be able face Harry again the next time we have a meeting, Whenever that's going to be."

"Of course, the two Keith's write about different things. From memory, Keith Donetta is mostly about cars and aircraft and travel, whilst Keith Parks is mostly about his travels around Australia and the UK, I think."

"No, I'll leave those alone too."

"There's other people too, but not too many that I can think of."

"Don't want anything too exotic or out of this world. Nothing about my favourite books, or some of the television programs I have been watching while we have all been in lockdown against the Covid 19 monster that has been stalking our streets. And why I now know why I don't like going on cruises."

"I could always write about how I miss the social life on Tuesday mornings. Which I do, of course. And how the various people I see interact. Oh, and that I am sorry to have missed the weekly online Zoom sessions, but Zoom sessions just do not float my boat. I prefer personal interactions. I always think Zoom is a bit laboured."

"I even miss the weekly pronouncements from our beloved president and the announcements from our esteemed secretary/treasurer and the reactions they bring and some of the interjections from and to the usual suspects like Alan Dunne."

"Although I must admit, I enjoyed the cartoons and other stuff that Kevin sent around."

"No way! I'd be accused of all sorts of things! Like trying to curry favour. I hate curry! It upsets my guts something chronic!"

"I will just have to think of something."

"Oh, what the Hell!"

"He will just have to wait until I get to think of something to write about."

"Chris has just made us a cuppa and then we're off to bed."

## MESSAGE FROM ROGER:

- **Roger Patten**

There are some meetings happening online every week during this shut down that you may like to explore. If you joined Men's Shed originally to keep in touch with other guys, then you will enjoy these hook-ups.

We have the Midland Men's Shed session on Tuesday's at 10.00am which is a whole lot of fun.

Then there are several ZOOM sessions organised by Men's Sheds of WA and Kevin circulates an email early in the week advertising these sessions.

You don't need an app or any knowledge about anything except how to open an email and click on a link.

And, if you haven't done so already, please pass on your consent to Kevin so as to allow me to call you during this shut-down.

Keep busy, stay at home and look after yourselves!