

well
together

OXFORD WOOD RECYCLING



Oxford Wood Recycling received £10,788 to run drop-in fortnightly Community Shed sessions for woodwork skills and socialising.

Oxford Wood Recycling runs a warm and welcoming Community Shed at their wood shop in Abingdon. It's open to residents from Caldecott in south Abingdon who want to learn or improve their woodworking skills. No experience is necessary. The staff and volunteers are on hand to support where needed, and there is a plentiful supply of recycled and reclaimed wood. Jennie, who runs the Community Shed, says, "People have crafted all sorts of amazing projects, including bird boxes, insect hotels, spoons, hedgehog houses, shelves and even clocks."

"Our Community Shed initiative has received tremendous support and has quickly become a cornerstone of our community engagement efforts."



INCREASING CONFIDENCE

"I saw the flyer for this, so I came along, and it was so good! Now I'm making a bench for my dog so that he can look out of our window! I would never have been able to do this before, but now I feel more confident. It feels great."





A COMMUNITY AS WELL AS A SHED

The Community Shed is more than just a woodworking space. It's a vibrant hub where grandparents crafting alongside grandchildren is a common sight. People who attend come for the woodworking, and for the friendly atmosphere, the tea and the cake!

Many who attend speak about the health and wellbeing benefits they get from coming along, including getting out the house, being active, meeting others and increasing confidence. Many participants make gifts for loved ones, and even for their cats!



Some people said they were shy when they first came, and that as they have gradually got to know people, they have come out of their shells. Everyone agrees that they look forward to coming every fortnight and wish it was weekly!

As well as running the Community Shed, Oxford Wood Recycling have a wood shop, offer SESI refill products, run community events and woodworking workshops for people of all levels.

“It’s heartening to see people from all walks of life come together, not just to learn woodworking skills, but to meet one another. The overwhelming response and positive feedback underscore the value of such inclusive and supportive spaces.”

“I used to teach woodwork. When I retired, I really missed it, and coming here as a volunteer is good for me and I can help others too, which is ideal.”

