

Benson Community Shed carves spoons

Though we probably don't give them much thought, we use spoons every day, and humans have carved spoons for thousands of years. Apparently in Scandinavia every schoolchild learns to make a wooden butter spreader in the same way that we used to learn how to wire a plug, so surely it must be straightforward..... 10 members of Benson Community Shed have been carving butter spreaders and wooden spoons for the last few weeks, and we've all really enjoyed it.



Could we really get from this  to this  ?

Even if it's not something that will become a life long hobby, the opportunity to learn how to transform the branch of a tree into a unique wooden spoon has been tremendously rewarding. We have learnt about the character of different woods and different parts of the tree, how to use an axe safely to start off the process, how to make different cuts with our own set of knives to finesse the character of our spoons, and how to decorate them in our own style.



As well as the personal pride and sense of achievement in what we have made, we are tremendously grateful to Mike Amphlett our tutor who has generously shared his expertise and guidance and made the whole process really fun, engaging and easy to understand.



The lively chat and banter over a cup of tea and a shared interest has helped form new friendships, and after we've shut up shop, some of the group walk up the road to the pub for a pint. Jim who recently moved to Benson, was delighted to be sitting next to a near neighbour who he hadn't previously met and the 2 are now firm friends. *"Although I wouldn't initially have said it was my cup of tea, I'm so glad I came to meet people and I've really enjoyed the evenings."*

Others of course do have a specific love of woodworking and have come along to hone their skills, appreciating the opportunity to further their creative and artistic skills. *"Carving a spoon from green wood is a very satisfying process using just an axe and a knife to craft a beautiful object that you can use for years."*

As Robert, who is leading the Benson Community Shed project, commented, *"It was heartwarming to see a lovely group of individuals coming together to make new friends, learn a skill and support the Shed. Working together makes wonderful things happen!"*

To find out more information about Shed activities, please email benzoncommunityshed@gmail.com or see our Facebook page.



What can YOU bring to the Shed?

We are planning future Shed activities, and putting together a programme of meetings for the rest of the year. We are looking for people who can share their craft skills with others. Please let us know if you have skills to share. Also let us know if there is a particular craft skill that you would like to find out more about, and we will endeavour to put together a varied programme.

You can find the Benson Community Shed on Facebook

or email benzoncommunityshed@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you