

BEST LITTLE WOODSHED WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The 2018 Best Little Woodshed competition saw a great selection of wood storage ideas entered – from a re-purposed camper van to a hobbit house to sheds with blinds to pull down in wet weather.

Councillor Brian McGurk, Co-Chair of the Strategy and Environment Committee, said that the range of ideas was fantastic. "It's great to see people being creative with how they store their wood, and also making sure their wood shed has good air flow and keeps the rain off so that the wood keeps on drying while it is stored."

Cllr McGurk commented on the winners.

"It was clearly obvious that our winners had put considerable thought into their woodsheds to make the best use of available space, accessibility for when the weather turns cold and wet and how they might to keep the rain out as well as making their woodshed that something extra special".

The Judges' three winners, who each won a cord of firewood from a Good Wood supplier, were:

- 1st – Michael Meek
- 2nd – Graeme West
- 3rd – Lucy Pritchard

The winner of the Facebook People's Choice was Sarah Board.



Michael Meek won first prize for his well-ventilated and beautifully organised woodshed

Graeme West's woodshed took second place for its good design and easy access

Lucy Pritchard's woodshed uses recycled plastic sheeting that can be pulled down over the wood during wet weather

Sarah Board won the People's Choice Award on Facebook with the family's retired van now being used as a woodshed

IT'S TIME TO CHECK YOUR CHIMNEY

We've still got a few months of warm weather to go but winter has a habit of sneaking up on us, so don't leave it too late to get your flue cleaned and wood burner checked by a professional chimney sweep.

Smoke from a woodburner is made up of gas and chemicals released by the wood as it burns. If the fire is too cool, due to damp wood or putting too much wood on the fire at once, residues don't burn and can build up on the inside of the chimney. Build-up like this will narrow your flue so it doesn't draw as well, make your wood burner less efficient, and could cause a chimney fire if it does ignite.

A chimney sweep will remove soot, creosote and any other blockages like bird nests from your flue. This

will mean that your fire will draw well, put out more heat, and will also reduce the likelihood of a chimney fire. He or she will also check your fire is properly installed, safe and well maintained so that it is ready for the colder months. This includes looking for splitting or corrosion of the seams, making sure the fire bricks are intact and that the baffles, air tubes and flue system are working properly.



DID YOU BUY YOUR WOOD EARLY?

A total of 108 households purchased fire wood under our Good Wood Burn Bright "Buy Your Wood Now" promotion run during November and December.

Buying your wood early is a great way of making sure you have dry seasoned wood for winter, and avoiding the rush in the colder months, when wood is more expensive and may not be ready for burning – it's also usually cheaper!

The winner of the free flue clean and woodburner check was Sue Christensen, of Atawhai. Sue purchased her load from Wholesale Firewood.

5 EASY STEPS TO A SMOKE FREE WOODBURNER

