



# Epsom NEWS

## Repair Café

### **September 2024**

Hope this finds you all safe and well.

Another Summer has been and gone with a whimper, but the repair café has gone from strength to strength due mainly to word of mouth from customers who have been satisfied with our service.

Our volunteers have performed magnificently and this year we have handled 247 items with an overall repair success rate of 79%. Items that have come in range from portable electrical tools, kitchen appliances, irons, radios and CD players, printers and paper shredders, clothing repairs and alterations, shoe repairs, furniture and other wooden items, garden tools and mowers, strimmers, pressure washers, bicycles, pushchairs and scooters, ceramics, musical instruments, toys and games and knife sharpening and garden furniture. My most memorable item this year was a beautiful handmade vintage children's electric car that had been made by a grandfather and required some TLC, but all repairs get the same attention and care and all our volunteers get a real buzz bringing broken items back to life as do the customers themselves.

We hope that sharing our expertise during repairs encourages our customers to attempt repairs rather than discard a broken item. This saves money, landfill and reduces our CO2 emissions.

This year is the International Repair Café movement's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The movement started in 2009 in Amsterdam by a lady named Martine Postma concerned about the excessive consumerism encouraged by manufacturers and the increase in landfill from household items discarded due to simple repairs or maintenance. She set up the first repair café with a handful of like minded volunteer and since then the movement has grown to over 3000 repair cafes worldwide including over 450 in the UK alone.

The IRC are holding an anniversary event in October and have invited all repair cafes to design and make an individual pennant with a themed design of their own repair café and send them in for the anniversary conference. These pennants would then be linked together and draped around the conference hall of the convention. One of our sewing bees, Alice, volunteered to design one for Epsom and she is making it showing a race horse and jockey in full gallop, celebrating Epsom's strong links to the horse racing industry. Look forward to seeing the finished article Alice.

Below are some photographs of recent sessions





If you have a repair skill and would like to join our growing band of volunteer repairers, contact us at our email address - we would love to talk to you. Contact Phil Neale at [phil@epsomrepaircafe.org](mailto:phil@epsomrepaircafe.org).

You will see Repair Café banners around Epsom – The Epsom Methodist Church, The Rainbow Centre, Epsom Waste Recycling Centre, and other central sites. We also have a useful flyer, which gives you more information.

We hold a repair session on the third Saturday of every month, except August and December. The sessions run from 2pm -5pm. We strongly advise to book a repair session on our booking system, which can be accessed on our website. You can find us on Facebook or Google.

## **REVIVE SHOPS**

There are four shops sited at the waste recycling centres at Leatherhead, Witley, Woking and Earlswood. REVIVE SHOPS rescue items that are destined for the centre and offer for resale to residents who visit the recycling centre. More details on this project can be found at [Revive Shops – Suez UK](#) on Google.

**Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all in the near future**