



## REPAIR CAFÉ PROJECT PROPOSAL

26 July 2019

With thanks to [www.repaircafe.org](http://www.repaircafe.org)

There are over 1.300 Repair Cafés worldwide.

Repair Cafés encourage people to see their possessions in a new light and to appreciate their value. Repair Cafés help change people's mindset and save many items from going to landfill.

**What is a Repair café?** Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things (together). Visitors to the Café bring their broken items from home. Together with Volunteer Repairers they make their repairs in the Repair Café. It's an ongoing learning process. It is also a social, relaxed environment where relationships can be developed, and all sectors of the community can feel part of something positive. If you have to wait or have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. You can also get inspired at the reading table – by leafing through books on repairs and DIY, and those with a creative eye might like to make artworks out of leftover bits and unrepairable items.

**Why a Repair café?** We throw away vast amounts of 'stuff'. Even things with almost nothing wrong that could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves, or they no longer know how. Knowing how to make repairs is a skill quickly lost. Repair Cafés aim to change that. Valuable practical knowledge gets passed on. The Repair Café shows how much fun repairing things can be, and how easy it often is. Things get used for longer and don't have to be thrown away. This reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products. It cuts CO2 emissions, for example, because manufacturing new products and recycling old ones causes CO2 to be released. It is also social and relaxed encouraging informal relationships to develop around positive interactions.

**What sort of things get repaired?** Clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, phones, toys, tools, all sorts of things.

**How does it work?** At an agreed time and place, at the same time every month, a small group of volunteer repairers bring along their tools and materials. Members of the public bring their items for repair and together they see if they can make the item work again. People register their item on arrival so that they can be seen in the order that they arrive – at the same time they **sign a disclaimer agreeing all repairs are undertaken at their own risk**. There is no charge for the repair but donations are encouraged. Tea / Coffee etc can be purchased.

**When & Where?** On the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month starting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 11am – 3pm in the lower hall at the Methodist Church on Buxton Market Place. Please note: The lower hall has a few steps down to it if coming in through the main café entrance, but there is a door on the level a little further along the wall on Chapel Street for those less able or with larger items to wheel in.

**What About Insurance?** Transition Buxton has taken out insurance cover for the Repair Café. To be covered by the policy Volunteer Repairers must be Transition Buxton Members – a simple form and payment of £1 for life. The disclaimer and House Rules remain important deterrents to litigious action.

**Funding:** the aim is for the Buxton Repair Café to be cost neutral, with donations from people getting items repaired covering any costs and possibly even providing a small surplus. This means Volunteers only being

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reimbursed for materials that they need to purchase or replace at cost, and largely free publicity. We have secured a one off £1000 start-up grant from the Bingham Trust to allow us to get up and running. This will allow us to join the Repair Café international organisation (see <https://repaircafe.org/en/start/> ), buy a PAT testing gadget and pay for a couple of volunteers to get trained to use it, some initial publicity and marketing materials and a few consumables, and the first six months of room hire. After our first six months of operation we will re-assess the finances and plan the next six months.

**Project Management:** A Buxton Repair Café working group has come together to set up and run the Repair Café. This includes preparation, admin, and marketing in addition to the monthly Repair Café sessions. Helen Brown has volunteered to do some of the Admin. Transition Buxton and other 'green' groups in the High Peak & Derbyshire Dales area are keen to help with publicity and to support the Repair Café initiative. Jean Ball, the Transition Buxton Director who has researched Repair Cafes, will support the Project Manager(s), share / hand over all the research, contacts and information gathered including one or two people who have been involved in Repair Cafes elsewhere and willing to 'muck in'.

**Buxton Volunteer Repairers** confirmed so far – others still to be asked / confirm

Iain Hawthorn – PAT test qualified and general handyman

Jim Morgan – electrician and technician at Buxton Opera House, PAT tester, very handy

Jean Ball- textiles, fabric, sewing

Helen Brown – textiles, clothes, soft furnishings

Tim Ball – technician and general handyman

Dave Gooday – general Mr fixit with specialism in electronics & musical instruments

Trevor Gilman – engineer and all round clever bloke

Andy Cooper from Repair Sheffield – specialises in repairing old phones

**Added optional extras:**

- A bicycle repair surgery alongside the Repair Café
- An artist upcycling corner where they gather and make things out of the bits of things that can't be repaired.