



THRIFTFEST

UPCYCLED

FIXIT CAFÉ

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The Home Edition of
THE FESTIVAL OF THRIFT



SHARE | REPAIR | REPURPOSE | RECYCLE WITH FIXIT CAFÉ

Fixit Café is a communal activity; an informal fixing workshop where all tools are provided with experts on hand to help you find your fix.

Consisting of a wide group of committed fixers, we will have a go at more or less anything from electronics, fabrics, woodwork, valve radios, bicycles, toys and garden tools. We encourage participants to get their hands dirty and pick up a screwdriver with the intention that even if they don't have the skill to fix their stuff they will learn to use tools effectively and safely and, at the least, gain a greater appreciation of how the stuff they own is made.

We throw away 2 million tonnes of electrical and electronic waste each year in the UK. Often, this is due to poor construction and the lack of knowledge in how to repair electronics and electrical appliances at home. At Fixit, we believe that in order for humanity to continue to live on planet earth, we must give it the ability to renew itself and ensure we make an effort to consume less natural resources. We can do this by buying less stuff and more importantly, fixing stuff we would otherwise throw away.

Here are some ways in which you can join us in using less:

AVOID buying unnecessary items that may end up in landfill (eg electrically lit pumpkin lamps for halloween- fun but not really essential)

SHARE resources, tools and knowledge (libraries are a well established method of sharing costly or consumer items)

REPAIR According to the Intermediate Technology Development Group, over six million electrical items are thrown away every year in the UK. It is estimated that over half of them are still working or could easily be repaired. We send 700,000 tonnes of clothing to recycling centres, textile banks, clothes collections and to charity each year. 350,000 tonnes of these wearables go to landfill - that's enough to fill 230 Olympic-size swimming pools.

REPURPOSE and find new use for items. Use a boot as a bird box, or upcycle a shabby chair to a stylish throne. Socks that are beyond darning can be rewoven to cloths, odd socks become facemasks, and toilet roll tubes are great plant pots for seedlings!

RECYCLE the things that can serve no further purpose.



TOP TIPS

Excellent home fixes and maintenance can save a big fix later on, so:

- Sew up those rips early!
- Use a screwdriver to tighten saucepan handles.
- Batteries:
 - Generally batteries are Alkaline.
 - Use white vinegar or lemon juice to clean out battery compartments that have suffered alkaline battery leakage!
 - Use a solution of bicarb to clean out battery compartments that have suffered an acid battery spill.
- A sharpening stone will make a massive difference to your gardening tools, and a smaller one in the kitchen will keep knives sharp too.
- Vacuum Cleaners:
 - Change the bag!! Or empty the dust hopper (you'd be surprised)
 - Fine scissors can cut the hair off the brush bar.
 - Get into the pipes – that long hair gets everywhere! Wear a dust mask and gloves. Use tweezers and a bit of wire to tease out the trapped things.
 - Wash any washable filters (make sure they are dry before replacing)
 - Knock the dust out of the paper filters (outdoors or in a plastic bag), but do not wash
- Coffee machines:
 - Dried and crusted milk can be soaked off.
 - Most problems (if the thing switches on and generates heat) are likely to be cured by descaling.
 - The coffee grains and powder residue can block pipes, so dismantle and deep clean, descale and maybe replace any rubber washers and seals.

YouTube and Forums

By searching for the item you are trying to fix online, you can often find within the fixing community those that have experienced the same fault and have shared their 'how to' methods on forums and it is often possible to read how they fixed stuff or found parts.

A lot of repairs and makers also share what they have learnt through YouTube. Craft videos, watchmakers, computer fixers, etc. are often very generous with their knowledge and make a lot of great videos sharing good fixing techniques and workarounds.

OTHER RESOURCES

Find us at: www.facebook.com/fixitcafe

Check out:

<https://repaircafe.org/en/community/>

<https://therestartproject.org/>

Search for local Tool Lending Libraries where you can borrow tools.

