



Macctastic.org



Repairing Group: Status 10/12/18

The group aims to encourage people to consider repairing broken items before discarding them and buying new.

The following topics are being considered for further development:-

1. **Repair Cafe**

We could do this. Previous experience has been that it's harder to get the 'customers' - the people who want things fixed - than it is to get people who like to fix things. The key factor for success is to commit to running a cafe for at least a year, in the same place once a month, and promote it via local Facebook groups.

- a. We've got lots of really useful information from [Malvern Repair Cafe](#), and from looking at other cafes around the country that would provide a foundation for starting up. Things like a start-up manual, example constitution, volunteer sign up etc. etc.
- b. Costs are relatively small for running the cafe. They mainly consist of venue hire and running of the 'cafe', consumable fixing materials (e.g. glue, screws) with a small amount of Facebook advertising. Income comes from donations from people who have things fixed.
- c. There are costs involved in start-up, which would include appropriate insurance, which require some fundraising.
- d. Ultimately a proper financial structure and constitution would be needed, with a small team to lead. As there isn't anyone in the current group who is able to do this at the moment, the group decided that they would attempt a pilot of 3 cafes in the New Year.
- e. We're asking around to find a suitable venue at the moment. Possible places are ArtSpace, St. Peter's Church rooms and (a wildcard??) the old S&M supplies building.

2. **Tool Library**

A place where tools or other 'things' are lent - like a book library. We've looked at several examples around the country. They require premises, long term funding and

a considerable amount of work, though they do it very nicely with the Repair Cafe. We talked about Christchurch as a possible venue. We felt that as the Repair Cafe can be done as a pop up, it's a better place to start. If that got off the ground, it's possible that we could look at the Tool Library.

3. **'Revamp your wardrobe' parties**

Some of us liked the idea of parties - like Tupperware parties - where someone hosts a party at their house, and we do a bit of mending and repair, a bit of upcycling and a bit of clothes swapping. There are projects around; clothes swaps around the country on a smaller and larger scale, and a place called [Stitched Up in Chorlton](#) that runs swaps and skills classes. What we had in mind is on a smaller scale, and in a domestic setting.

4. **Promoting a repair culture online**

This could involve sharing places that repair things via Facebook, or on a map, or it could look at places you can learn skills to repair things, and sharing this in some way. It could be about photographing things are you repair them and placing the pics on YouTube, or sharing where to find manuals or other info that have helped you fix things

5. **Mug Library - shared mugs/forks etc for town centre events**

A lovely idea to gather old ceramic mugs and forks and make them available to borrow in some way at local events - like Treacle Market. We're currently looking at trying this out in a small way at a town centre event.

6. **What can you do?**

a. **Can you help?**

Do you feel that you could give a bit of time to organising and running a repair cafe? We'd love to hear from you. Contact repairing@macctastic.org, or the [Macctastic Group Facebook page](#).

b. **Call for fixers**

Are you one of those lifelong fixers? Do you have an area of expertise - electronics, computers, bikes, clothing, soft furnishings, ceramics, glass, jewellery that you would be able to apply to do repairs? And would you be able to give a bit of time - possibly one a month on a Saturday or Sunday or occasionally on a rota?

7. **Sharing repairing**

If you find a great place to have something repaired, find somewhere that teaches you how to repair things, then do share it on the Macctastic Group Facebook page

8. Likewise, if you fix something, consider documenting the process with a few photos or a video, and share it via Facebook or YouTube

9. **We'd love to hear from you.** Contact repairing@macctastic.org, or the Macctastic Group Facebook page.

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