

Macclesfield Repair Café Update July 2021

As restrictions are slowly easing we have continued to move the Macclesfield Repair Café along and have exciting news:

On the 11th September the Repair Café will open its doors for the first time to the public!

None of this would have been possible without Scoop and Scales who have kindly agreed to take us under their umbrella and support us. As outlined in February we are planning to open once a month from 10am-2pm in the Old Sunday School Building.

We have a great team of skilled volunteers who are keen to help visitors with their repairs and share their knowhow! With a wide range of expertise from textiles, IT, bikes, mechanical and electrical engineering, we are hoping that the Repair Café will become a place of knowledge exchange and discovery for our community. If you would like to know more or would like to help, please get in touch under: repaircafe.macc@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Of course, restrictions haven't stopped our team from creating and repairing! From visible mending and fixing a fence to restoring a whole canoe, there was no stopping us.

David Smith, one of the Repair Café volunteers, about the journey of restoring his canoe: "My first Post-Lockdown repair has been resurrecting my fibreglass canoe.

It's been sitting in my garden, unused, for a while and my children have grown up chiming 'why don't you get it sea worthy again?'

Because it's been outside all those years it took several hours to dig it out of the undergrowth in the garden and clean it down. The foam inside the bow end had been tunneled through and foam removed for nesting materials.

The foam was replaced with some builders expanding foam. After filling the canoe with water using a watering can I fixed a small leak with a simple fibre-glass patching kit from Wickes and used off-cut wood, pipe-insulation and wing bolts to make a replacement foot rest.

I copied the old and rotted lifting handles at both ends and drilled the replacement wood to be fitted with new rope for lifting handles. The paddle handle had some rotten tape at each end which was replaced with Duct Tape and I found replacement rubber splash guards for the paddle on eBay.

A gentle rub with T-cut, used to shine-up cars, brought back some of the shine.

A test on Rudyard lake, chosen for its shallow-end, proved that yes, a 48 year old canoe can not only float but can keep up with its contemporaries. The cost of bought items, about £19.

And what a delight to be 'unlocked' and back on the water again, and sharing this with my own offspring!"

