

# Repair Café Whittlesey

## A Community Initiative for Sustainability and Skills

### Introduction

Repair Café Whittlesey is a vibrant community initiative dedicated to promoting sustainability and self-sufficiency by helping people repair their broken items instead of discarding them. Coming to Whittlesey, this café offers a welcoming space where residents can bring their malfunctioning household items and receive assistance from skilled volunteers.

A Repair Cafe is scheduled to be hosted at The Whittlesey Athletic Football Ground off Drybread Road in Whittlesey, Peterborough. It is supported by the Peterborough Repair Cafe and aims to be a community event where people can learn, share skills, and fix their broken items. The Whittlesey Repair Cafe is hoping to have its own sessions a couple of times a year, but currently needs volunteers with practical skills in areas like electrics, electronics, woodwork, metal work, and seamstressing.

### Elaboration:

- **Whittlesey's First Repair Cafe:**

Helping Whittlesey has partnered with Peterborough Repair Cafe UK to bring the Repair Cafe concept to Whittlesey, which had a successful first event.

- **Upcoming Events:**

There is a Repair Cafe scheduled for 05<sup>th</sup> July 2025, located at Sir Harry Smith Community College – more information later.

- **Need for Volunteers:**

Helping Whittlesey is actively looking for volunteers with specific skills to support their own Repair Cafe sessions.

- **What to Expect:**

Repair Cafes typically provide a space for people to fix broken items, share skills, and learn from volunteers. They often handle portable household items, small electricals, furniture, and items needing sewing or tool sharpening.

- **Free Service:**

Repair Cafe services are typically free, and volunteers often offer a cup of tea or coffee.

- **Sustainability:**  
The Repair Cafe model aims to reduce landfill waste and promote sustainable practices.
- Peterborough Repair Cafe UK - Facebook

### **The Concept of Repair Cafés**

Repair Cafés are grassroots movements that originated in Amsterdam in 2009, founded by Martine Postma. The idea quickly spread across the globe, resonating with communities eager to reduce waste, save money, and foster a sense of camaraderie. These cafés operate on the principle that many items can be fixed with a little know-how and the right tools, thus extending their lifespan and keeping them out of landfills.

### **Objectives and Mission of Repair Café Whittlesey**

The primary objectives of Repair Café Whittlesey are:

- Encouraging waste reduction: By facilitating repairs, the café helps reduce the volume of items ending up in the trash, contributing to a more sustainable environment.
- Promoting skill-sharing: Volunteers with expertise in various fields, such as electronics, carpentry, and sewing, share their knowledge with attendees, equipping them with valuable DIY skills.
- Fostering community spirit: The café serves as a social hub where people can connect, collaborate, and support each other, strengthening community bonds.
- Economic benefits: Repairing items is often more cost-effective than replacing them, saving residents money and promoting a thriftier lifestyle.
- .

### **Conclusion**

Repair Café Whittlesey is more than just a place to fix things—it's a community-driven effort to promote sustainability, share knowledge, and strengthen local bonds. By participating in this initiative, residents of Whittlesey are playing an active role in reducing waste, preserving the environment, and fostering a culture of collaboration and skill-sharing. Whether you have something to repair or skills to offer, Repair Café Whittlesey welcomes you to join this rewarding and impactful movement.