

Report from Saltash Repair Café

The Repair Café was started by friends Mark Chanter and Spencer Neale in January 2019, first at Saltash Wesley Church, when they saw 9 items brought in for repair. Since then, other repairers have joined us, and Spencer has moved out of the area. After a break during Covid, we restarted the Repair Café at St Nicks and St Faiths Church Hall on usually the second Saturday of the month from 10am to 1pm. We now have a team of 8 repairers and several ladies that help with refreshments and greet people on arrival.

We now see between 20 to 30 items per session, ranging from broken toys, electrical items not working properly, clothing items needing repair, damaged wooden items and jammed mechanical items that are all looked at by our volunteer repairers, who will do what they can to prevent it going to landfill and for the item to be used again. For those that have their item looked at we ask they give a donation to cover our expenses. In addition to repairs we also do electrical safety checks, done by Mark, as he has a PAT testing certificate. This ensures items looked at by the repairers and leaving the café are safe.

The repair session ends with a hot pasty lunch for the volunteers, that is provided by the Community Kitchen, who also provide a cake to go with a drink while people wait for their repair. We have also been supported by the Scrapstore and SEA.