

Throw it away? No way!

Sue Justice

This is the motto of the Repair Café movement, which started in the Netherlands in 2009. Maybe you've never heard of a repair café before, and it isn't necessarily somewhere you will get a cup of coffee and a cake (although it might be that too). But it is somewhere you could get something mended for free, or with a voluntary donation, instead of having to throw it out:

A broken zip on a pair of trousers,

The on/off switch on a nice old radio, which otherwise works perfectly well,

The catch on a necklace,

Garden tools, electronic and mechanical items, bikes, even glassware and ceramics could all be brought back to life.

Volunteer experts may do the mending, or alternatively help you to do it yourself there and then. The items that can be repaired vary from place to place and to some extent on which specialists are on hand that day but below are details of those nearest to us.

Berkhamsted

Open Door Repair Café, 360 High St, Berkhamsted HP4 1HU (opposite Cross Oak Road, VAH DIY shop, and Shell petrol station)

1st Saturday of each month 09.30 am-12.30pm

<https://www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/repair-cafe.htm>

See here for what else Open Door does: <https://www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/what-we-do>

Aston Clinton

St Michaels and All Angels Church, Church Lane, Aston Clinton HP22 5HJ

2nd Saturday of each month 09.00 am-12.00 noon

Search 'Aston Clinton Repair Cafe' on Facebook

Tring

High Street Baptist Church Hall, 89 High St, Tring HP23 4AB

3rd Saturday of every month, 10.30 am to 1.00 pm

<https://www.tringintransition.org.uk/repaircafe>

Also search on Facebook

Chesham

Location varies between Chesham Town Hall, HP5 1EP and Lewins Yard, HP5 1HQ (just off the High Street by Orbit Press)

This is usually the last Saturday of the month, but it seems to be somewhat variable, so please check, 10.00 am -1.00 pm.

See <https://sustainablechesham.org.uk/portfolio-item/repair-cafe/> for full details

Also on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/cheshamrepaircafe/>