

RUSKIN ROAD REPAIR CAFE

Newsletter

In February people brought in:

- Watchstrap
- Lampshade
- Toaster
- Laptop CD tray
- Table lamp
- Computer file transfer
- Radio
- Garden shredder
- Shoe sole
- Vase
- CD player
- Electric toothbrush
- Cashmere jumper
- Bicycle
- Cassette player/recorder
- TV
- China dish lid
- Christmas wall hanging
- Vacuum cleaner
- Teasmade
- Electric fire/fan heater

February Repair Statistics

Pre-booked:	23
Walk-ins:	11
No shows:	4
Total:	30
Donations online:	£30.00
Saturday donations:	£158.10
Café:	£21.00
Total to bank:	£209.10

PLEASE NOTE

There is no RRRC session on Saturday 30th March as this is Easter Saturday!

Pop-up session on:
Saturday 16th March

At:
Little Holland House
40 Beeches Avenue
Carshalton SM5 3LW
from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
(Volunteers are asked to come for 1 p.m.)

Next Ruskin Hall session is on Saturday 27th April from 2 to 4 p.m.

Urgent plea re Little Holland House event!

We are short on facilitators for the LHH event; if you can come to help with teas/coffees, reception or front of house, please do let Melanie know by emailing her on mellycat@gmail.com

Comments from clients

Service is brilliant. Repairer friendly, knew his work

Friendly, Knowledgeable, did all they could

Wonderful place, healthier, environmentally friendly, overall good experience

March's Repair Café Volunteers—Marcus and Helen



- **How long have you been volunteering for RRRC?**

Marcus: I first heard of the Repair cafe through Robert Mann when he got in touch with the cycle campaign back in May 2022, it was shortly after this I started appearing with my tools and cycle stand (and cargo bike!) from July. It wasn't until last year that Helen came to join me to see what was going on.

- **What inspired you to join?**

Marcus: At first I thought it was a going to be a good way to promote the cycling campaign, but I soon just enjoyed meeting those involved and helping out extending the life of things.

Helen: I love the idea of preventing things being thrown out and things being fixed at a low cost.

- **What is your role?**

Marcus: That's an interesting question, so at first I was all about repairing bikes, I would stand in the corner with my cargo bike and tools waiting, but very few came! It was probably because of this I ended up wandering around seeing where else I could be useful, and that's how I've naturally fallen into the role of reception.

Helen: I came in and started helping with the teas & coffees, but as someone who doesn't drink hot drinks myself I wasn't very good at it! I then moved to help with the front of house with Mr H where we have carved out a role for ourselves by working together to make things work more smoothly.

- **What is the most interesting or challenging repair you have seen come in to RRRC?**

Helen: For me it's not so much a challenging repair, but the challenge is finding the best person who is available at the time to do a repair and get everyone, including walk-ins, seen. That's the challenge for me.

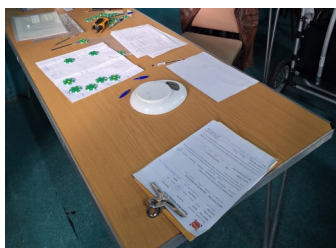
Marcus: I'd have to say Annette's dynamo, apparently two bike shops had said it was beyond repair, I was determined though, ahem, 90 minutes later...

- **How would you like to see RRRC develop in the future?**

Helen: I'd love for the website, admin and forms to be improved, I feel we let people down when they've booked online but don't appear on our lists so effectively get treated as walk-ins.

Marcus: I'd also be keen to see it being more relaxed, more of a cafe culture. I'm always looking at streamlining our "system", you might have noticed our poker chips, bell or recently walkie-talkies!

March Repair Café Volunteers continued.



That most definitely comes from helping on the reception desk and knowing the feeling of dealing with 5 people with items and forms all at the same time 🤯... all that said, more cake on reception please! ;-)

Repairing at Little Holland House – Following in the Footsteps of Frank Dickinson



Little Holland House is a 'hidden gem' on Beeches Avenue, and the former home of artist, designer and craftsman Frank R. Dickinson. Inspired by Ruskin and Morris, Frank designed and built the house in the English Arts and Crafts style between 1902-4, moving in shortly afterwards. Frank and his family continued to follow the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement, filling their home with unique hand-made furniture, paintings, interior decoration, carvings and metalwork. Some say this is the ultimate D.I.Y. story!

Today the property is a Grade II listed historic house museum, but on March 16th it will come to life in the original spirit which created it, as Ruskin Road Repair Café fill it with activity! Usually accessible one Sunday each month, Little Holland House will open its doors on Saturday 16th between 2 and 4 for a special repair session, allowing our volunteers the chance to do some good for the environment and the local community while also enjoying the opportunity to view this charming and beautiful home.

I feel sure Frank would be proud!

If you know anyone who would like to get something repaired in this lovely space, please advise them that booking is essential (we cannot allow walk-ins for this more limited session), and that they need to email details of their repair to ruskinroadrepair-cafe@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing some of you at the event, and for the others, we will report back next month to let you know how it went!



Directions: located on the B278, 0.2 miles from Carshalton Beeches Railway Station, directly on the 154 bus route (alight Carshalton Beeches Station and walk up the hill away from the railway station.)