

Bin it? No way!



Left to right: Patricia Fitzroy, Carrie Cort, Laura Woodrow and Cliff Jackson



Jill Shuker, Laura Woodrow, Patricia Fitzroy, Maggie Weir Wilson, Jacinta White, Carrie Cort and Helen Whittington

## PRESS RELEASE

# 1<sup>st</sup> West Sussex Repair Café launches in Horsham

**What do you do with a broken toaster? Or a laptop which is on the go slow? Or with a ripped pair of trousers? Bin it? No, repair, remake, reuse and refresh, saving money and helping the planet. Sussex Green Living an environmental awareness and education community initiative and Horsham Quakers are launching a Repair Café on 7<sup>th</sup> October in Horsham. This will be the first Repair Café in West Sussex and will take place on the first Saturday of every month 10am– 12.30pm.**

Volunteer repair experts and creative members of the community will be available to help make all possible repairs free of charge. Tools and materials will also be on hand. People visiting the Horsham Repair Café will bring along their broken items from home, clothes, laptops, PCs, toasters, lamps, hair dryers, and then with the assistance of a technical volunteer repairer they will learn how to mend the item.

The Horsham Repair Café will consist of a rotating theme of different repair café sessions starting with clothing repair, alterations and textile upcycling on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. On 4<sup>th</sup> November laptops and computer can be brought for repairs and on 2<sup>nd</sup> December the repair café morphs into an energy café to look at how people can reduce their energy use at home and maybe switch to another energy provider to save money. Then on 3<sup>rd</sup> February the café focuses on woodwork repair and remaking. The themes

repeat in 2018 with the addition of a small household goods electrical repair session on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Carrie the founder of Sussex Green Living says "Many local people have wanted a repair café in Horsham, so we thought long and hard how we could set one up. A dedicated team of Sussex Green Living volunteers have been running a special recycling scheme, diverting waste resources from landfill since early 2012". Carrie continues "Horsham Quakers have kindly provided a public drop off location for our scheme and for many years they have run a household cleaning product refill service on the first Saturday of every month. So this community led repair café seemed the natural progression". This initiative is supported by Horsham Men in Sheds, Kinder Tech and Groundwork.

By promoting repairs, the Horsham Repair Café wants to help reduce mountains of waste. This is absolutely necessary, according to Jill Shuker, a Sussex Green Living volunteer "We throw away piles of stuff in West Sussex. Even things which practically have nothing wrong with them, and which could easily be used again after a simple repair. Unfortunately, many people have forgotten that they can have things repaired. Repair Café wants to change all that."

Helen Whittington from Horsham Quakers says "We are really excited to be part of this project. Sustainability and Simplicity are key testimonies for Quakers. Our faith nudges us to take practical, grass roots based action so this project feels like the perfect fit. I think many of us can feel powerless when considering the problems of global climate change and how to best use precious world resources. This venture empowers all of us to take those small actions which collectively can add up to big change. The key thing is bringing people together and I think our Quaker meeting house, already an established community base for many groups, is well placed to host this initiative. We will aim to provide a friendly Quaker welcome to everyone who drops in."

Horsham Repair Cafe will be launching during national Quaker Week, which is an annual focus on Quaker worship and initiatives across the country. Horsham Quakers will be holding an open air silent worship on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October in the Carfax from 12.30-1pm; all are welcome to take part – just turn up! Further information about Quakers is available at [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk) and [www.horshamquakers.org.uk](http://www.horshamquakers.org.uk).

The Repair Cafe project has been awarded a £1000 start up fund, through the 'Change the World in 20 ways' grant from West Sussex company Green People. Green People are celebrating 20 years of manufacturing natural plant based organic beauty products with human and environmental health in mind.

Horsham Repair Café is launching on 7<sup>th</sup> October 10am - 12.30pm and will then take place on the first Saturday of every month at the Quaker Meeting House, Worthing Road, Horsham, RH12 1SL. The Repair Café team urges people to come along and enjoy refreshments, watch, volunteer or have a go at repairing, remaking or creative upcycling. Further information about the rotating repair and energy themes can be found on [www.HorshamRepairCafe.org.uk](http://www.HorshamRepairCafe.org.uk).

**END**

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**Sussex Green Living**

**About Sussex Green Living**

Sussex Green Living (SGL) was launched in 2012 by a Billingshurst mother Carrie Cort, out of concern for environmental stability. SGL and its growing team of passionate volunteers inspire, motivate and equip people with practical and creative solutions to lead a more sustainable and adaptable way of living. Where everyone lives within their environmental limits, sustainable communities which are vibrant, healthy and safe, respecting the local and global environment and where individuals and enterprise prosper.

Carrie provides environmental education and awareness through: fun green play sessions, talks and workshops for children's nurseries, schools and groups for children and adults, communicates greener living through the Sussex Green Living 'recycled stand' at shows and supports event organisers which building in 'green' elements to their event.

Since the Sussex Greener Living Campaign has been offering people in Horsham District and towns as far away as Chichester and Selsea, a way of diverting landfill materials into a special recycling scheme.

Carrie and local volunteers help to collect, sort and dispatch hundreds of thousands of items of waste resource, raising money for:

- William Penn Primary School in Coolham
- Philippine Community Fund (Charity supporting families living on a dumpsite)
- Springboard Project in Horsham

Carrie and Sussex Green Living have won the following awards:

- Winner of Going Green Award at the Business Matters Awards in 2012 and 2013
- Runner up of the Going Green at the Southern Business Awards in 2012
- Winner of BBC Surrey & Sussex Community Heroes Green Champion Award 2015
- Shortlisted - WWF Earth Hour - Community Hero Award 2017 at the same awards ceremony in the Palace of Westminster, Her 9 year old son won the WWF Climate Challenge KS2 poster competition.
- Shortlisted - Business Green Leaders Awards - NGO of the Year 2017

In March 2016 Carrie travelled to Manila, Philippines to train with former Vice President Al Gore, Leading Climate Change scientists and communicators in the Climate Reality Leadership. She is now one of 11,000 activists in a global network committed to spreading awareness of the climate crisis and working for solutions to the greatest challenge of our time.

For further information on the work of Sussex Green Living please see [www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk](http://www.sussexgreenliving.co.uk).

### **Repair Café Foundation**

The Repair Café concept arose in the Netherlands, in 2009, and was formulated by Martine Postma, at the time an Amsterdam-based journalist/publicist. In 2010, she started the Repair Café Foundation (see [www.repaircafe.org](http://www.repaircafe.org)). This foundation provides support to local groups around the world wishing to start their own Repair Café. The foundation also supports the Horsham Repair Café.