



### **Toss it away? No way!!**

**Making things last** is one of the actions on The Great Collaboration portal. If you chose this as one of your pledges and you prefer to repair than replace, then you might be interested to learn about the worldwide movement that is **The Repair Café**. With over 2,289 cafes worldwide, our local repair café is only 12 miles from Fownhope in Ledbury!



**Repair Cafés** are local schemes that promote repair as an alternative to throwing things away. In Ledbury, two-and-a-half-hour Repair Café meetings, are held on the first Saturday of every month (usually), from 10.00am to 12.30pm at the Ledbury Community Hall. Local residents can bring their broken household items for fixing by one of a team of volunteer repairers. **Advance booking is essential** – and you'll need to book via the website (I'm happy to help do this for anyone who isn't comfortable on the internet). They don't charge a fee for repairs but all donations towards the cost of running the sessions are gratefully accepted.

I attended the Repair Café Ledbury at the beginning of March as I had been asked if I minded taking in a toaster that had needed parts ordered to complete its repair, and its owner happened to be away that particular weekend. It was a blessing actually because I had been meaning to go for a long time but hadn't prioritised it (mush like the Farmers Market last month). Not only was the toaster repaired and returned to me very efficiently, but I was able to speak to one of the experts about repairing a favourite leather handbag of mine where the stitching had come away on one handle and I could no longer use it. It has been a favourite bag for years – a real symbol of my children's childhood, being on my shoulder in most photographs taken when we've been out and about on holidays and day trips - and I was really disappointed when it came apart. The great news is that it could be repaired if I could source the correct thread. Well, a quick online search soon yielded suitable options so I went ahead and booked a slot for the next café, and I can't wait!

The Repair Café Ledbury have a website if you'd like to find out more: [www.repaircafeledbury.org.uk](http://www.repaircafeledbury.org.uk) and, as the name suggests, serves tea, coffee and a lovely looking selection of cakes to enjoy whilst you're waiting. I've been eating rather too much cake lately so I didn't take up the opportunity, but maybe next month ...

You can take along ....

- **toys**
- **household goods**
- **tool sharpening**
- **electrical appliances**
- **electronic equipment**
- **garden tools (excluding those with petrol engines)**
- **furniture and other wooden objects**
- **clothing and other textile repairs.**

But they are also looking to increase their pool of volunteers, so if you have a particular skill, competence or expertise and would like to join the team, you can get in touch with them directly via email on [info@repaircafeledbury.org.uk](mailto:info@repaircafeledbury.org.uk)

More carbon reducing actions and information can be found on The Great Collaboration website: <https://greatcollaboration.uk>. If you haven't logged in and chosen your actions yet, grab a cup of coffee and log on today!

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