

ANNUAL REPORT

20

**A YEAR OF
BUILDING COMMUNITIES,
REDUCING WASTE**

24

THE FIX IT GROUP

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Executive Summary

Welcome to our Annual Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to excellence throughout the year.

In 2023, The Fix It Group 23 was established as a not-for-profit community interest company dedicated to supporting individuals during challenging times and reducing landfill waste by promoting repair and reuse. Founded by John Fitzgerald and Paul Worth, the group successfully launched its first Repair Café at the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre in October 2023, followed by a second location at the Bradgate Arms in Cropston in May 2024.

Our Repair Cafés offer free community events where individuals can bring broken household items to be assessed and repaired by our team of skilled volunteers. These gatherings not only facilitate the repair of items such as small electrical appliances, clothing, toys, and furniture but also foster a culture of sustainability and community engagement.

In addition to hosting Repair Cafés, The Fix It Group 23 shares its expertise and resources with organisations across Leicestershire, assisting them in establishing and managing their own Repair Cafés. Our comprehensive support includes guidance on organisational structure, event management, health and safety, policy development, financial considerations, volunteer recruitment, and insurance requirements.

As we look ahead, The Fix It Group 23 remains committed to expanding our reach, enhancing our services, and continuing to promote environmental sustainability and community cohesion through the power of repair and reuse.

A word from the Chairperson

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the strides we have made as a community. This year has been a defining moment for The Fix It Group 23, as we have established ourselves as a trusted organisation dedicated to making a tangible difference. From launching our first Repair Café to building strong partnerships, our efforts have had a meaningful impact on the people we serve.

The idea behind The Fix It Group 23 was born out of a desire to provide practical support during challenging times while tackling environmental issues head-on. What started as a vision to reduce waste and promote sustainability has grown into a vibrant community effort. Our Repair Cafés have become a place where skills are shared, stories are told, and connections are forged. It has been heartening to witness people come together to fix broken items, learn new skills, and leave with not only repaired belongings but also a renewed sense of empowerment and self-sufficiency.

This year alone, we have helped hundreds of individuals repair treasured items that might otherwise have ended up in landfill. The stories we hear at each event reaffirm the importance of our mission. Whether it is someone fixing a kettle that belonged to their grandparents or repairing a child's favourite toy, these small successes mean

so much to those involved and remind us of the value in repair and reuse.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment of our volunteers. Their time, expertise, and passion have been the backbone of our achievements, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to our sponsors and venues, who have placed their trust in us and enabled our work to flourish.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities 2025 will bring. By continuing to grow, we can reach more people, divert more waste from landfill, and strengthen our role in building a more sustainable and connected future.

To everyone who has supported us this year—whether by volunteering, donating, or simply attending one of our events—thank you. Your belief in our work inspires us to do more. Together, we are creating lasting change, one repair at a time.

With warm regards and deepest thanks,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Fitzgerald".

John Fitzgerald
Chairman

Our dedicated Trustees



John, a Mountsorrel resident for over 37 years, brings a wealth of experience in health and safety, facilities management, and community service. Retired in 2022, he remains dedicated to supporting local initiatives and, as Chairperson, combines his passion for repairs and leadership to drive The Fix It Group 23 forward.



Paul, a Chartered Engineer with a lifelong passion for repairing and creating, is dedicated to saving items from landfill safely and sustainably. From childhood projects to restoring vintage hi-fi equipment, his expertise and commitment make him a proud part of The Fix It Group 23, helping to support the local community.



We would like to recognise the hard work and dedication of our 2024 trustees who form our management committee. Their collective expertise, leadership, and commitment have been instrumental in guiding The Fix It Group 23 towards achieving its mission and goals.



With a background in chemical engineering and environmental management, Jo brings valuable experience to her role. Now balancing family life and her face-painting business, she joined The Fix It Group 23 after being inspired by the Repair Café team. Jo plays a key role in organising events and raising community awareness.



Chris brings a wealth of experience in hospitality management, workplace learning, and leadership development to The Fix It Group CIC. Currently supporting clients with leadership growth, Chris is passionate about personal challenges, having completed a 50km charity trek for Mental Health UK. With a love for reading, walking, and pushing boundaries.

Accountant's Review

	Year to 31 Dec 2024 (£.p)
Income	
Grants	-
Donations	2,946.57
Miscellaneous	89.00
Total Income	<u>3,035.57</u>
Expenditure	
Equipment and consumables	1,296.51
Website	-
Insurance	227.48
Banners	123.74
Charitable donations	750.00
Safety Equipment	5.00
Total Expenditure	<u>2,402.73</u>
Net surplus for the year	<u>632.84</u>
Cash at bank	1,314.84
Less accrued Expenses	682.00
Accumulated reserves carried forward	<u>632.84</u>

Accountant's Review of the Income and Expenditure for 2024

I have reviewed the financial records of The Fix It Group 23 and, from the records supplied, I have prepared the Income and Expenditure Statement above reflecting the Community Interest Company's activities during the year to 31 December 2024.

On the basis that no further income or expenditure arises between 1 Dec 2024 and 31 December 2024, the figures accurately represent the financial performance of the company for the year under review.

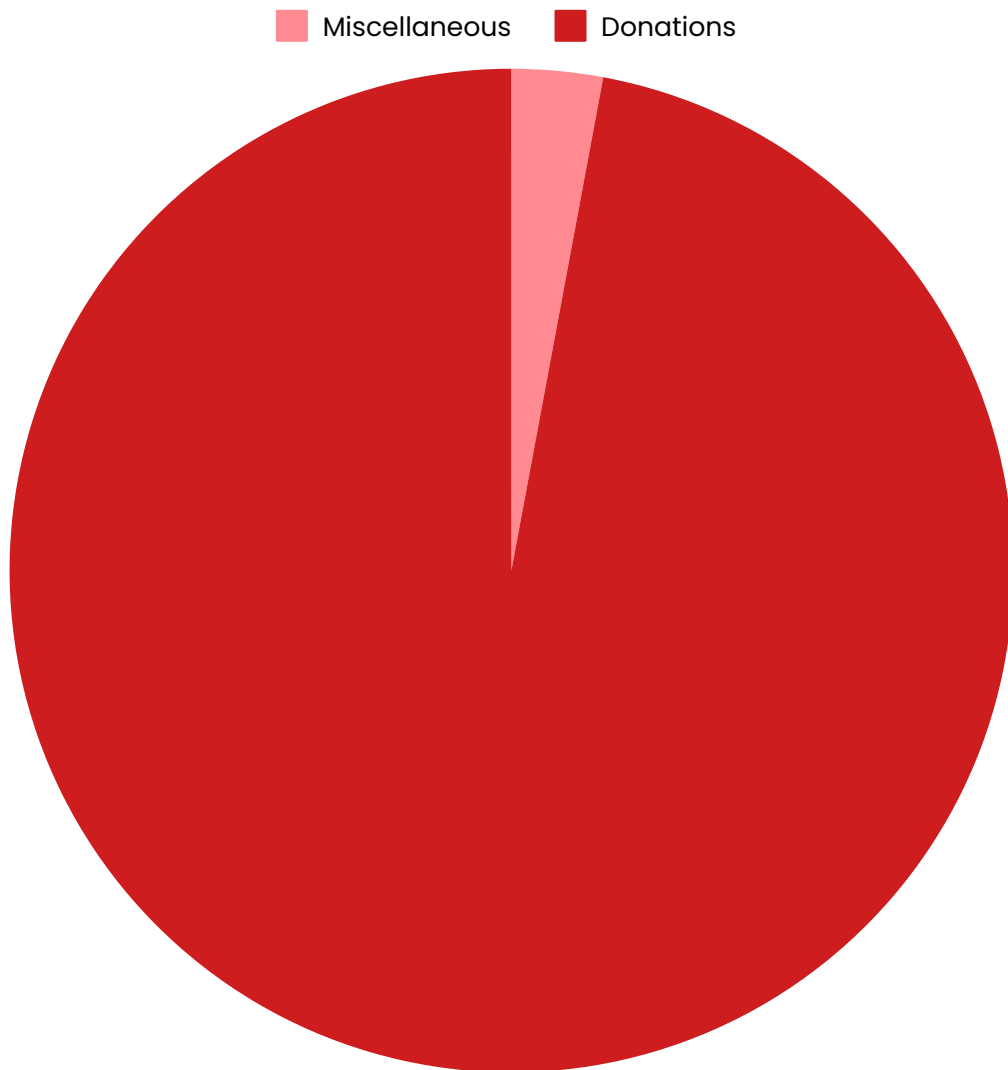
The company is carrying forward accumulated reserves of £632.84, represented by cash held at bank, to support its operations in 2025.



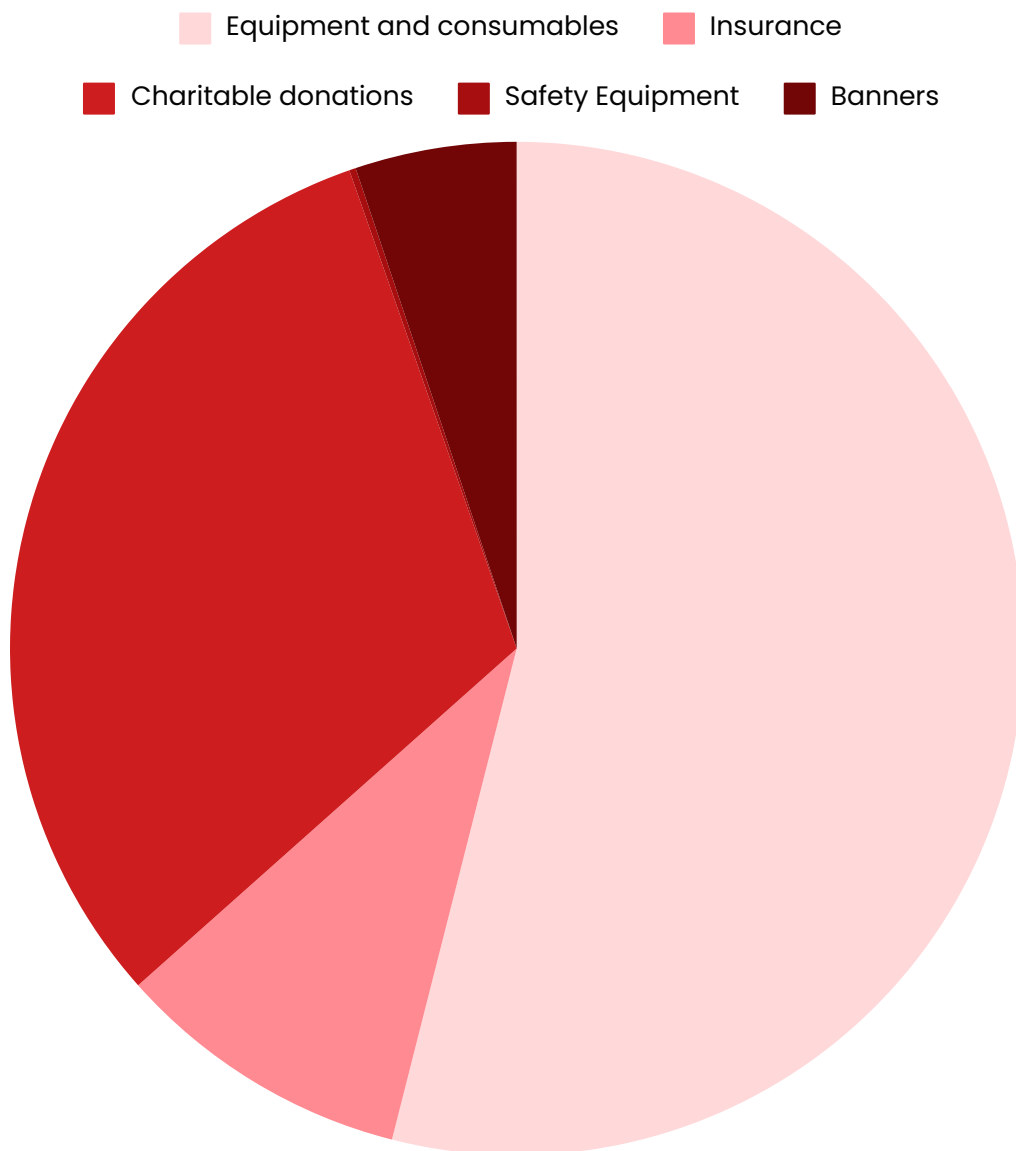
T A Frost FCA
Chartered Accountant
Grasscroft, Oldham, OL4 4JY

Date: 12 December 2024

Total income in 2024



Total expenditure in 2024



Giving back and Making a Difference

This year, we are proud to have donated a total of **£750** to our three chosen charities. These contributions reflect our commitment to supporting causes that align with our values and make a positive impact in the community. Thank you to everyone who has supported us, enabling us to give back and help those in need.



Mental Health UK supports people affected by mental health challenges across the UK. Bringing together over 50 years of experience, it unites four leading mental health charities to provide vital resources, support services, and tools for individuals, families, and communities. With 1 in 4 people in the UK experiencing a mental health problem, Mental Health UK works to challenge the causes of poor mental health and ensure that people have access to the help they need to live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Their work focuses on raising awareness, providing practical advice, and creating opportunities for meaningful change in an ever-changing world.

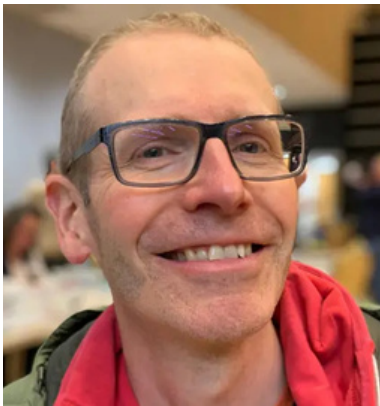


The Fire Fighters Charity provides vital support to serving and retired fire and rescue personnel, as well as their families, across the UK. Through tailored physical, mental, and social support services, the charity helps members of the fire services community recover from injury, manage mental health challenges, and improve overall wellbeing. Whether through rehabilitation programmes, mental health support, or community-building initiatives, The Fire Fighters Charity ensures that those who dedicate their lives to protecting others receive the care they need when they need it most.



The Swallows is a dedicated support group for patients, caregivers, friends, and family affected by head and neck cancer. Their mission is to ensure that no one faces the challenges of this condition alone, offering vital emotional, practical, and social support. Through their wide range of services, including a 24/7 support line, online resources, and local support meetings, The Swallows provide a lifeline for those navigating head and neck cancer. The charity focuses on fostering a caring community where experiences are shared, and help is always available.

Visitor's Success Stories



Jonathan Rashleigh said he had been using the service for a range of items that needed fixing.

"I think it's amazing, we found out about it months ago," he said.

"We brought a lawnmower blade to be sharpened and we have been coming back since. We have a pile of things for them to look at now, but not all at once."

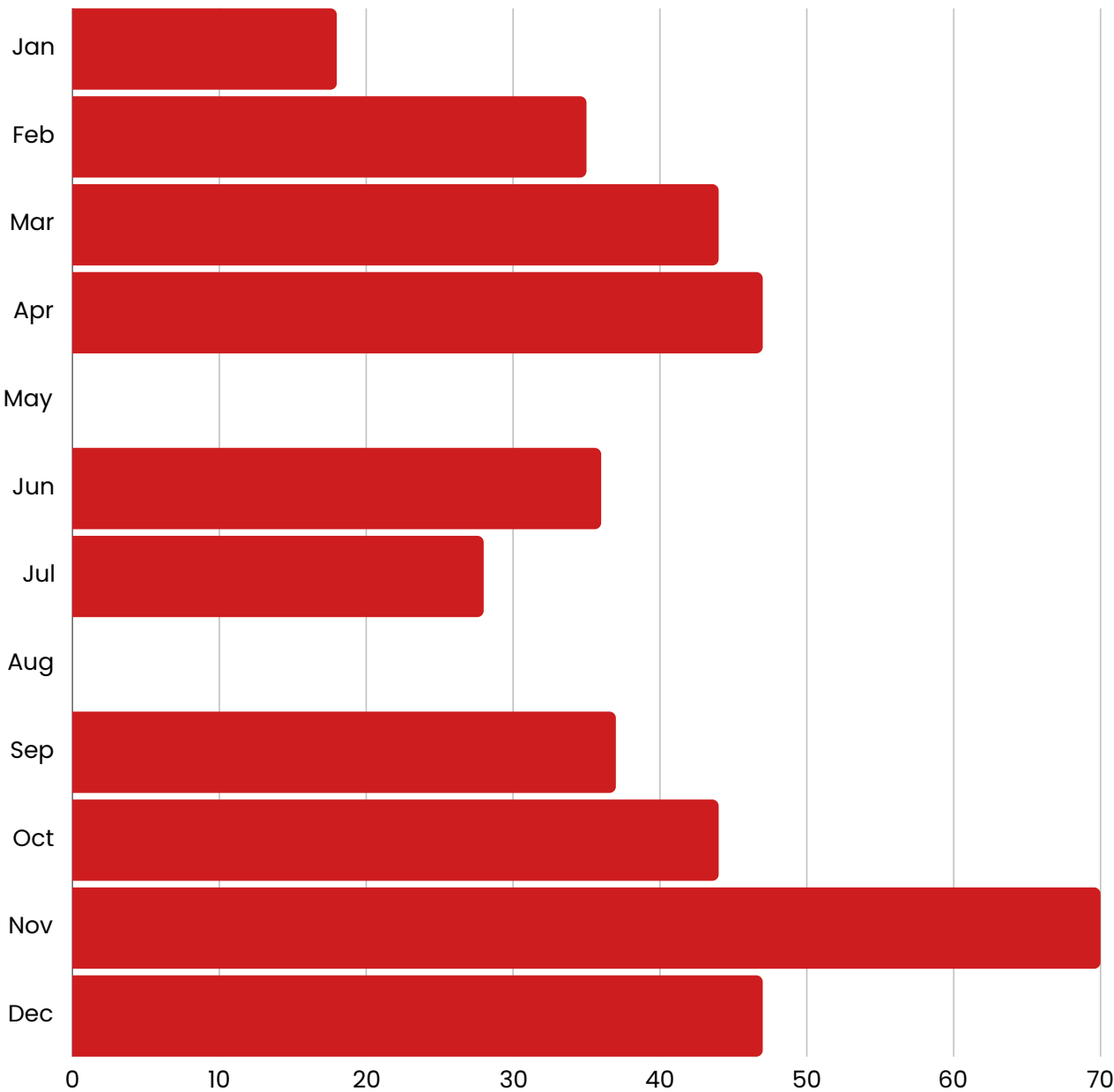


Susan Slater brought in her broken sewing machine that her husband bought her 50 years ago.

"It's fantastic here, absolutely fantastic," she said.

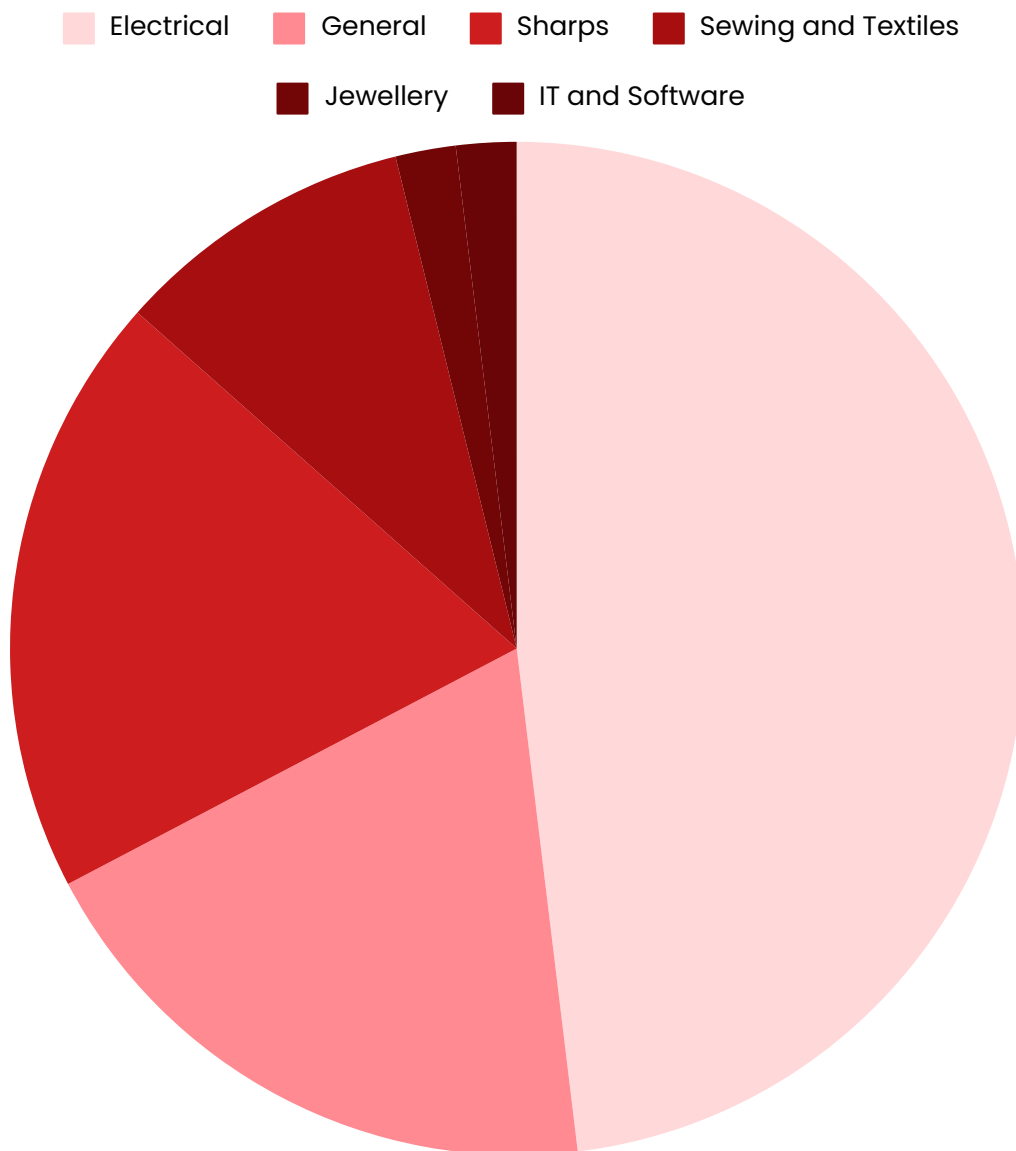
"Because of its sentimental value, I didn't want to buy a new one so I can't thank them enough that it is now working."

Total repairs in 2024



Statistics based on number of booking forms completed. Prior to a policy change which now specifies one form per item, some forms may contain more than one item.

What we Fixed



Health & Safety Reporting

At The Fix It Group 23, the health and safety of our volunteers, attendees, and venues are of paramount importance. We are committed to maintaining a safe and inclusive environment at all our Repair Café events and activities.

This year, we conducted regular health and safety assessments at all our venues, including the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre Venue and the Bradgate Arms Pub and Restaurant. These assessments ensure compliance with health and safety regulations and allow us to proactively identify and mitigate potential risks.

Our key achievements in health and safety for the year include:



Providing training for volunteers on equipment handling and safety protocols.



Providing volunteers with appropriate PPE to carry out repairs safely.



Implementing clear signage and procedures to ensure safe navigation of event spaces.



Conducting thorough risk assessments for each Repair Café event.



Ensuring all equipment is maintained, PAT-tested, and safe for use.

We are proud to report zero significant health and safety incidents this year, underscoring our commitment to providing a secure and enjoyable environment for everyone involved. Anyone can request detailed information regarding any incident logs or reports by emailing us.

0

Accidents

1

Near Miss

0

Hazard Reports

0

Illness/Medical Events

Looking ahead, we will continue to review and improve our health and safety practices to maintain the highest standards for our community events.

Thanks to our Supporters

We are incredibly grateful to the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre Venue, the MMC Café, and the Bradgate Arms Pub and Restaurant for generously providing the spaces that make our Repair Cafés possible. The Mountsorrel Memorial Centre Venue and the MMC Café have created a welcoming and vibrant environment, fostering community connections and enabling us to promote sustainability in Mountsorrel. The Bradgate Arms Pub and Restaurant in Cropston has provided a friendly and unique space, blending community spirit with the charm of a local pub and restaurant. Their support and dedication to our mission have been invaluable in helping us create a positive impact. Thank you for being key contributors to our success.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, whose generous support has been instrumental in sustaining our Repair Cafés and community initiatives. Local businesses and organisations have provided invaluable assistance, enabling us to continue our mission of reducing waste and fostering community spirit. Their commitment to our cause reflects a shared dedication to environmental sustainability and community well-being. We are deeply thankful for their contributions and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.





The Fix it Group 23 is a not-for-profit voluntary community interest company,
and the proud organisers of the MMCV Repair Café at 105 Leicester Road,
Mountsorrel, Leicestershire, LE12 7DB
and Bradgate Arms Repair Café at Cropston, Leicester, LE7 7HG.

 www.thefixitgroup23.com

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