



Spotlight

Transition Black Isle celebrates first anniversary of Repair Café activity.

July 2023



A committed group of volunteers, supported by the Black Isle Men’s Shed, Transition Black Isle and the Highland Community Waste Partnership are celebrating the first year of success for local Repair Café activities.



Images supplied by Transition Black Isle.

Since commencing in Avoch in 2022 Repair Cafés have become an increasingly regular fixture across the Black Isle. The events help people repair items - from tools and textiles, to electrical and digital technology - keeping them in use, and out of landfill. This all contributes to a more circular economy, which in turn helps to save money.

The most popular items brought in for repair were tools for sharpening and electrical items. But a wide variety of items have been saved from landfill too, including: Textiles , digital , leather, woodwork and bikes .

Black Isle Repair Café facts:

- **210 items have been brought in for repair** since 2022.
- Almost **two out of three items could be repaired during the Repair Cafés**, and about **a third were referred to other services for repair**.
- **Just 5% of items were deemed to be at the end of their life**, with signposting provided to appropriate recycling facilities.



But it's not just about the repair on the day, a key part of the events is the skilled volunteers who make the repairs passing on their knowledge, so people attending can learn a new skill, and fix their own item next time! This element of the events has featured prominently in the positive feedback from people who have come along to Repair Café's;

"Thank You. Couldn't find this service locally. Men's shed chap was very helpful and friendly and informative! Showed me how to do it myself too" - *Annette Greenfield*.

"So happy to have my jumper fixed!" - *Mairi Taylor*.

"Richard was good at explaining what he was doing which was very helpful. Effective knife sharpening." - *Tilbrook*.

When speaking about the events, Rose Grant, Black Isle Repair Café spokesperson, and Transition Black Isle Trustee mentioned both their collaborative nature and social value:

"Transition Black Isle and the Black Isle Men's Shed have enjoyed collaborating with the Black Isle Repair Café and it is our hope for the café to have closer ties with other community groups too."

Repair and reuse is a hot topic but there is great social value in what we do too. I would encourage everyone to come along and see for themselves."

Georgina Massouraki, Partnership Co-ordinator for the Highland Community Waste Partnership at Keep Scotland Beautiful said:

"We're delighted to be celebrating a year of waste reduction through the Black Isle Repair Café and hope that others are inspired by their achievements. We hope to see more people choosing repair going forward and encourage anyone considering setting up a repair café to get in touch. We're keen to share our learning and increase access to repair opportunities across the Highlands."



*Image supplied by
Transition Black Isle.*

Find out more:

Black Isle Repair Café:

www.transitionblackisle.org/

The Highland Community Waste Partnership

(HCWP): Led by eight community groups across the Highlands, coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the HCWP is working to reduce waste in our communities by changing the way that we all consume, that is, buy, use and dispose of things.

www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.org/highland-community-waste-partnership/