

Record-breaking repairers breathe new life into 230 items

Can they fix it? Yes, they can. And they did so in a record number as the Cambridge Repair Café smashed its target for fixing more than 150 items at a single event on Saturday.

Organisers Cambridge Carbon Footprint had set out to beat a record set by a Repair Café in France. And after 85 volunteers worked tirelessly through the day, the final tally came in at 232 – items that may have been destined for the tip. The list of repairs included bicycles, an urn, laptops, cuckoo clock and even a 100 year-old garden fork.

Roxanne, one of the visitors, said: “I was so pleased that I was able to get my hairdryer fixed at the Repair Café. It really made me think about the impact that getting just one thing repaired can have. My hairdryer won’t now end up as rubbish and I won’t need to purchase a new one. That means less waste and pollution.”

Co-organiser Nicole Barton said: “Our current consumption patterns account for around 35 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions so repair is a crucial component of moving towards a more sustainable way of living.”

■ Find out more about the cafés at circularcambridge.org/repaircafe.

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Mark Irving volunteers at the record-breaking Repair Café at Wesley Methodist Church in Cambridge on Saturday. Inset, from left, are Nicole Burton, Kate Bournell, Alana Sinclair and Francesca Crivello. Pictures: Keith Heppell