

Welcome to ReSkilled's Newsletter



June 2023

ReSkilled Workshop, St Peter's Shared Church, 37 Hazel Avenue, Guildford GU1 1NP

Tel: 07821 198 641 email: piers@reskilled.org

Operating times: Monday - Thursday 9.15am - 2.45pm

You are very welcome to come and visit us – please ring or email beforehand, thank you!

Progress

Thank you for your support and interest in ReSkilled - we're starting to see real progress and change in people's lives, with Participants showing signs of much increased confidence and also a desire to move on to voluntary work!

For most, volunteering is intended to be a stepping stone into paid work in the future whilst for others it will be a significant achievement in itself, providing consistent, sustainable work with which to become involved.



Learning Something New

Marquetry is a very old skill but a new one to all of us at ReSkilled. In June, Keith (pictured) kindly came on three days to teach us how to create a simple picture. We all discovered some of the subtle techniques that experience had taught Keith and ended up with very good results all round (see one of our Participants' finished piece below)! Thank you Keith!



Keith - a local resident who was happy to share his marquetry skills



- Measuring key points
- Cutting out the waste
- Cutting the end of the stalk
- A finished piece!

Wooden Products

We've been proud of seeing the progress that Participants have made, not just in their confidence and how well each person gets on with everyone else, but also in the wood skills that they have developed. Several commissions have been completed and also various individual pieces to take home.



Photo frame
(pine)



Shoe rack
(plywood
with pine
top)

Commissions:



For Guildford
Allotment
Society:
- Clock
- Keyring holder
- Boot jack
(all in oak)



Large + small chopping boards (oak)

Giving "Old wood, new life":

Scarf hanger
(from oak
bookshelf)



Mahogany picture
frames (from St Peters Church's
old front
doors)



Etsy

There is now a wide range of products that we make at ReSkilled available to buy on Etsy and we have had a few sales via the site. Feedback has always been 5 Stars, including comments such as; "This is lovely. Great quality and beautifully made. I love it."

We are continually adding to the stock and sometimes adding new designs. All sales go straight into ReSkilled towards our running costs.

The easiest way to buy any of our high quality pieces (birthdays, anniversaries..) is via our ReSkilled website page: [Our Wood Products](#).

You can also find us direct on Etsy as "[ReSkilledWood](#)".

Knife rack (ash with beech trim)



Tablet stands (oak) - showing the old wood that they have been made from



Getting the word out

Our Facebook page is gaining new followers, which is encouraging, and we try to add a couple of new posts each week showing what we're making here - keeping people up-to-date with what's happening.



Please Follow us and share any posts that you find inspiring - thank you!

You'll find us at <https://www.facebook.com/reskilledwood>

We've also recently had stands at Guildford's JobCentre Plus and also Westborough United Reformed Church's first Community Fair (see photo below: Events). This all gets our name more widely known as we seek to be a resource for the area.

We have also extended our referrals, including two local Secondary School Home School Link Workers - one of whom has already visited the workshop to see how we can help parents.

Supporting ReSkilled

There are several ways that people can support us:

- Donating wood (that's been stored inside)
- Prayer (see below)
- Buying our beautiful, handmade products or placing commissions
- Donating financially - if our aims ring true with you, giving a regular amount is really helpful please (we can claim Gift Aid too)



Recently donated off-cuts from a joiner

Grants - we have recently been awarded a 3-year grant from two different organisations who have seen the value of what we do. This is really helpful and enables us to confidently move forward, providing a consistent offer to our Participants.

We still aim for 50% of our funding to come from **regular giving** and the other 50% from grants, as this makes us less grant dependent and also provides a way for people to become a part of what ReSkilled offers. So often we see needs and don't know how to realistically help - this is one way.



To go to our website's Donate page: [Donate - ReSkilled](#) please click on this link or use the QR code.

Prayer requests –

Firstly, we want to **give thanks** for all of the progress that has been made - answering prayers in our previous newsletter:

- We now have a Volunteer for Wednesdays again!
- We have received grants that enable us to confidently continue our work for now and know that others are seeing ReSkilled's value too
- We have two Participants whose improved circumstances mean that they can rejoin us after several months' gap (they'd loved coming before!)



We would **value your prayers** for the following please:

- Participants – we still have relatively low numbers at ReSkilled (50%), despite individuals being interested in coming. Please pray that they will take that **first step** and that we will be aware of what might be holding people back
- Supporters – we would like to reach and communicate with more people who can see the value of ReSkilled

Events

In May we were invited to Westborough URC's first Community Fair. It was a good opportunity to show what we do (including our video), offer a game to play and sell some of the products that Participants have made - we actually sold quite a lot!





**A good range of our products
at Westborough URC**

Our next events are:

Saturday 8th July from 3pm - 5pm

**- Community Fun Day on the Green -
(Bellfields Green, opposite St Peters Church)**

Thursday 27th July from 12pm - 2pm

**Grassroots Networking by Guildford Borough
Council's Community Wellbeing Team
(also on Bellfields Green)**

Please come along to either of these if you can make it! Remember that you're always welcome to visit the workshop - see details on the front page.

Thank you for your interest and support in every way.

May we all be "working to restore hope" together!

Registered address: 37 Hazel Avenue, Guildford GU1 1NP

reskilled.org e-mail: info@reskilled.org Tel. 07821 198641

 **reskilledwood**

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