

Welcome to ReSkilled's Newsletter



September 2024

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!

What's new at ReSkilled?

At the end of May, we finished making the Telecaster-style electric guitar that we had been making together out of an old, yew coffee table that had been donated!

The final result was very satisfying - we had learned and tried many new techniques, including finishing with Tru-Oil (used for gun stocks), and then asked a professional guitar maker to test out our guitar. He said: "I was most impressed by the playability and tone of the instrument. The finish on the body is particularly well executed as hand-finishing is not easy to achieve. All in all, a very nice, unique guitar."

We put progress of the making on our Facebook page (check it out at: [reskilledwood](https://www.facebook.com/reskilledwood)) and then sold raffle tickets for £10, launched at The Blooming Picnic (see below). We had an excellent response, drawing the raffle at The Community Fun Day on the Green, selling 138 tickets in total = £1380 raised for ReSkilled!!!

As part of our publicity for the guitar, we put together a little book of the making of the guitar - you can see it on our website's homepage: [Home - ReSkilled](https://www.reskilled.org)



Progress

At the end of May, after only 9 months at ReSkilled, one of our Participants secured a permanent job - which he is still enjoying! During his time at ReSkilled, he got back into a routine - attending at least once a week - and we then identified what type of job would now suit him. Creating a CV enabled him to appreciate his range of skills and experiences, and it wasn't long before an appropriate job happened to come to light...

Another Participant had been with us for many months, during which time he had not only created several pieces both for himself and for ReSkilled to sell, but had consistently attended, interacting with other participants. We arranged for him to do some voluntary work locally and this then progressed to volunteering in central Guildford, where he has continued to work.



Participants making salad tongs and a coffee table (see below for finished pieces)

Wooden Products

A key feature of the wood that we use is that it has been donated, either as old wood to be reused, or offcuts.

Shown here are some pine and plywood offcuts from a local workshop, and some oak and mahogany offcuts from a joiner. To date, we have received 879kg of donated wood that we are steadily working our way through!



Over the last few months, we have had new participants in who have come up with different projects, e.g. a coffee table, salad tongs and a slant board for stretching calf muscles (see below).



We also made a serving tray from a design that we'd been given (left) and several birdboxes as commissions and for our stall at The Blooming Picnic event in June.





Commissions

We have undertaken several commissions recently, providing variety and challenge to what we do in the workshop. Often more than one person will work on any one commission.

Left/Right: Guest book pen holder and signage with a flower planter, both for a wedding.



We made the tombola (left) for the Guildford Allotment Society, having made several pieces as prizes for them in the past - a lovely collaboration.

Getting the word out

We've been trying to get out more (!) and raise our profile in different ways so that we are known more widely. This can help in: raising financial support; making our products available to buy; meeting potential participants.



March: Having been nominated by Tesco's *Stronger Starts* (blue tokens) from January to March, we were awarded £500 with which we bought a router + table.

May: Piers undertook his first Triathlon, raising over £500, with an added gift of £500!



May: A volunteer, participant and Piers at the Mayor of Guildford's *Big Charity Walk*.



June: *The Blooming Picnic* in Guildford Castle's grounds, starting the guitar raffle.





July: The draw was made for the guitar raffle at The Community Fun Day on the Green (Bellfields) - we sold 138 tickets at £10 each. With added gifts we raised around £2000!



September: We had a visit from Guildford's

new Member of Parliament - Zoe Franklin. She said "I was so pleased to spend time with Piers and the whole team at ReSkilled, what they do is inspiring. Not just the wonderful work they create together, but the genuine care and encouragement that is invested in improving wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem."

Supporting ReSkilled

As always there are several ways that you can support our work:

- **Donating financially** - if our aims ring true with you, giving a regular amount is really helpful (we can claim Gift Aid too) - please visit our [CAF Donate page](#)
- **Prayer** (see below)
- Buying our handmade **products** or placing **commissions**

We are trying to raise our profile and engage as many people as possible to sign up to giving a **regular amount** - could you give £5 per month? Or even £10 per month?

Our target is to be supported by enough **individuals** to cover 50% of our annual costs - this means achieving a monthly total of £1,000. We know that this will take time but it will also give us a secure, stable base from which to continue to develop our provision without being so reliant on grants.

If you are interested in supporting us financially, please either use the QR code which will take you to our website's *Donate* page, or go there directly using the link: [Donate - ReSkilled](#)



Prayer requests

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

- For the two participants who have been able to make the next step onto paid/voluntary work
- For each of our participants who have persevered, despite physical and mental difficulties, with continuing to come along to the workshop!



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

- Those looking for work to move onto - finding the right opportunities and be given a chance
- Participants' housing issues potentially taking them out of area, so sadly losing support



Please remember to check our **Facebook page** - it's our way of keeping you updated on a more regular basis (!).

Events

We have been given a lot of support this year from Sallie Barker, the Mayor of Guildford, inviting us to events (see "May" above) and helping us to raise the profile of ReSkilled. We will hopefully also receive some financial support from the *Mayor of Guildford's Support Fund* - they have two upcoming fundraising events that you might like to attend:

30th September: *Curry and Quiz Night* at the Shahin Restaurant, Woodbridge Hill, Guildford

12th December: *The Mistletoe Ball* - details to follow

Thank you for your interest and support in every way.

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

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reskilledwood

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