

Welcome to ReSkilled's Newsletter



Autumn 2025

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?

This has been an encouraging few months (since our Spring newsletter)! We have seen more volunteering in a variety of roles and welcomed several new participants to ReSkilled.

In terms of projects, we have been making a range of commissions and products of participants' own design. We are currently part way through making a toy car garage (like the Fisher Price ones, but in wood and better?!) for a pre-school, which has taken a lot of planning and thinking in 3D. We also had to install a new fire door in the workshop premises, which provided a great opportunity to work on a different scale.

In supporting participants more broadly where appropriate, we helped one person by ordering and assembling an adult tricycle that they needed to improve their mobility. They can now access shops, the doctor and the chemist much more easily, hopefully exploring further as time and confidence allow!



Progress

Over the last 3 months, we have had three of our participants move on to volunteering (and therefore finish at ReSkilled)! A fourth is currently volunteering and expects to move on soon. It is a joy to see each person move on, having progressed in confidence whilst at ReSkilled and willingly taken up a volunteering role as their next move forwards.

We find that each day of the week in the workshop has its own “flavour” as the specific combination of volunteer and participants develops, sharing experiences and interests, developing projects and techniques, times of testing as the wood reveals its inconsistencies, all combining to provide a relaxed and supportive atmosphere every day.

Each person will have been with us for a year or more, although it doesn't feel like it. Time passes quickly: projects are made and sold; commissioned pieces very gratefully received; wide and varied conversations (!) taking place every day; and participants attending very consistently.

Whilst one of our criteria to attend is “having been unemployed for over 12 months”, in reality most of our participants have been out of work for an average of nearer 7 years. We therefore often provide a wider range of support than expected and it is a privilege to be able to help. Continuity is important.

Wooden Products

We continue to appreciate the wide range of projects being made at ReSkilled, whether for the participant themselves or as a commission. We frequently see finished pieces of high quality, satisfying to both the maker and receiver, building confidence and a deserved sense of pride in their achievements.

Approx. size: 50 x 40cm



Clockwise:

- Carved logo for a friend's new business
- Clock with inlaid dial
- Bird table
- Hedgehog house (more like a hotel!)
- Painting easel (portable)



Left:

- Hackle (for refining flax)
- Solid base frame made for Guildford Action's table football



Left/Above:

- Wood from the pews used previously, now being made into a bookcase for that church



Getting the word out

As we have been aware that we need to keep finding new ways of reaching new participants - those who might not naturally be attracted to engage with “another agency” - we decided to step out in September and have a gazebo space outside Guildford’s Tesco Superstore, located on the other side of town. We did get some interest and hope that this will bear fruit.

On the same day, we had a market stall at All Saints, Onslow Village, which was very successful! Not only did we sell a range of our products but were made very welcome by the hosts, being invited to share more details about ReSkilled through their local magazine.

We have also been recommended to pursue greater Facebook presence, as this will reach people within their own homes - particularly helpful for those who have limited reasons to go out.



Also in September, Piers had been invited to give a presentation to JobCentre Plus clients to tell them what ReSkilled was and how we could help. Half of those present wanted to follow up and visit the workshop, two of whom started at ReSkilled within a fortnight and two more are still interested.

The next day, we attended an event to which multiple caring/support agencies had been invited by a Guildford GP practice, with the aim of showcasing opportunities to which individuals could be signposted/referred in addition to receiving GPs’ medical help. ReSkilled was noted for being a practical way of helping people to move on, adopt routine and interact with others.

In other words, it’s been a busy time of broadening our reach to tell as many people as possible what ReSkilled has to offer. We know that our encouragement, practical approach, consistent and sustained support, combined with helping participants into volunteering (or paid/self-employed work) really makes a difference and we will continue to help as many people as possible - it’s still hard reaching the “hard-to-reach”!

Supporting ReSkilled

In May, Piers completed his 2nd Triathlon, raising £570 for ReSkilled. Thank you to all who supported him! He’s planning on doing the 3 Peak Challenge at some point in the future - watch this space...

ReSkilled’s financial aim is to be supported by enough individuals, committing to giving regularly, to cover 50% of our annual costs - this means achieving a monthly total of £1,000.

If you’re interested in starting to support us financially, please email: treasurer@reskilled.org or pop in to speak to Piers. We can also claim Gift Aid if appropriate. For one-off donations, please use the QR code which will take you to our website’s *Donate* page.



Prayer requests

Last time, we asked for prayer for those with physical difficulties that were stopping them from moving on. One individual has successfully started volunteering now!



- Please continue with these prayers as physical barriers can be a big hinderance to those who are otherwise ready to be looking to move forward
- We are looking for 2 new trustees to join the group at ReSkilled

Your prayers would be appreciated. Thank you.

We also regularly pray in the workshop before sessions begin, for those attending and for safety here. We know that God honours these prayers.

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday 22nd November: 2 - 4pm @ St Peters Shared Church (Hazel Avenue, Bellfields)**
We'll have a stall to sell our products at the Community Christmas Fair where there will also be a good range of other stalls and refreshments.
- **Friday 28th November: 7.30 - 10pm @ The St Saviours Women's Christmas Market (St Saviours Church, Guildford)**
We have been invited back to join in the market at this event - it's a fun, relaxed, "Christmassy" evening with a live jazz, craft-making, market stalls and mulled wine - please see St Saviours website for details.
- **Thursday 4th December: 10am - 2.30pm @ The Hive (on Park Barn Drive, Guildford)**
This will be a good opportunity for anyone interested in what ReSkilled does to come along and have an informal chat. We will also sell some products - if there are any left from the above!



Please remember to check ReSkilled's [Facebook](#) page - it's our best way of keeping you updated on a regular basis.

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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

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