

# Welcome to ReSkilled's Newsletter



April 2026

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?

In February, we finally finished making the **Play Garage** that had been commissioned by a local pre-school! Whilst it took longer than expected - being more complex than one might imagine - we thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and it was a project in which multiple individuals could play a part, from making the “solar panels” for the roof to designing and making a ratchet mechanism for the lift. We even had to design all of the picture/wording decals.



If you'd like to see more photos of it being made, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

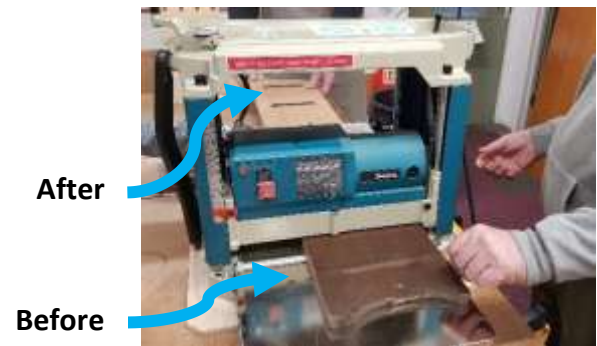
We had also been commissioned to make a **Bespoke Bookstand** before Christmas that has just been finished (to a very high standard!). The customer drew up a design themselves that would enable them to access heavy books from their armchair, such as a concordance and a Bible, without the usual space and weight difficulties. We modified the design to feature a rotating function for the top part (using a lazy-susan bearing), with leg supports that were sympathetic to the customer's current furniture (photos overleaf).



**Above: Oak book stand with revolving top - a very satisfying result!**



Our latest little addition has been a **metal detector** to check for hidden, embedded nails and screws, which blunt or destroy all tools in the workshop very quickly - it's been helpful already!



We are also still very much appreciating the **thicknessing machine** in the workshop (above), with its ability to “shave” hours off the usual work time required to size old wood and make it reusable.

**Participants** - we've been getting a steady stream of enquiries from people looking to join ReSkilled as participants. Once someone has started attending the workshop, it's usually fairly clear as to whether they're in the “right place” to be able to attend consistently, and if so, participants always then stay for between 9 - 15 months. This enables a helpful, lasting degree of change to take place, providing a solid base from which to progress.

**Trustees** - over the last several months we've been praying - and putting the word out - for a new trustee (or two) to join ReSkilled. Whilst not an arduous role, it is a vital one in the guiding and ensuring good accountability of the running of ReSkilled. As of last week, we are happy to say that we will be joined by Ant Horton!

### **Progress**

We love to see progress in the lives of our participants at ReSkilled. Whilst our primary aim is to help people towards sustainable employment, we are often able to see positive changes for participants in their personal lives and circumstances too:

Volunteering - at the end of last year, one participant was able to move on from ReSkilled, having volunteered consistently at FareShare (Guildford) for several months. They have enjoyed being part of FareShare and are looking for subsequent part-time paid work.

Another participant began volunteering elsewhere very recently, having had a taster session. We are looking forward to seeing if this is a good fit for them. It is important to us that roles are mutually beneficial as there will always be ups and downs (for both parties) and building a good relationship helps everyone through.

Monitoring additional benefits - we have realised that it's important to keep a track of the extra support and guidance that we provide. Since January, we have helped participants with: booking a GP appointment online; obtaining urgent help from CAP; suggesting reviewing a mobile phone contract that was costing the person excessively; signing up to learning to play a sport and also access free sessions to the gym. All of these help our participants to move forward in confidence and health!

### Wooden Products



#### Clockwise:

- Candleholders, using multiple off-cuts (new product line)
- Solid oak gate wedge (new product line)
- Bird table commission
- Oak bookcase made out of the old pews that they had donated (left)
- Birdbox, with hardwood decoration (our new style!)
- Clock, using off-cuts with a plywood face (prototype)



As you can see, we're trying to use our off-cuts in new, creative ways (to be sold at events), alongside fulfilling commissions.

## Getting the word out

Having had a stall at Guildford Borough Council Wellbeing Team's base in Park Barn shortly before Christmas, we realised that the scrolling presentation screen in their café could be a very good way of advertising what we do to those who may not engage with ReSkilled otherwise, using repeat viewings of an advert instead of a flyer or poster that may get lost amongst many others. Thanks to the Team for showing it for us!



**Instagram** - we've just launched our ReSkilled account (yesterday!) - more content to follow at [reskilledcharity](https://www.instagram.com/reskilledcharity)

## Supporting ReSkilled

Piers has done two triathlons to raise funds for ReSkilled's running costs and wanted to try something different. The Three Peaks Challenge sounded interesting - 3064m climb and 23 miles hill walk up Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon - but being realistic, 1 a day for 3 days (walking and travelling between) instead of everything in 24hrs! So far he's been up Scafell Pike and learned that coming down is harder on the joints than going up - it was a beautiful view above the clouds though (see photo). He's hoping to do this around the end of September/beginning of October with others - more details to follow.



**The Big Give** - we know that many of you support us financially already and have also realised that given a specific opportunity to help us, a lot of people give generously. We have signed up to *The Big Give 2026* which means that if you choose to donate to ReSkilled through this event at the end of June, any donation then will be **doubled!** We're going to put out more details on Facebook and email nearer the time as it will be an easy way to spread the message about what ReSkilled does and hopefully gain some more support (both financially and of those interested in our work).

**ReSkilled's financial aim** is to be supported by enough individuals, committing to giving regularly, to cover 50% of our annual costs (a monthly total of just under £1,000). **We're now at almost 40% of our annual costs** - a great achievement that we're very grateful for!

If you're interested in starting to support us financially, please email: [treasurer@reskilled.org](mailto: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

We can certainly give thanks that we now have another Trustee!

- Please pray for those experiencing barriers to their attending ReSkilled consistently (for a variety of reasons out of their control)



- For individuals to respond to our publicity and dare to make the first step to starting at ReSkilled - we have a lot to offer!

### Upcoming Events

- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026: 12 - 4pm - Guildford in Bloom's Blooming Picnic @ Guildford Castle Grounds.** We'll be joining this event again, with various garden/veg themed products to sell. It's a fun afternoon to which all are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy live music at the bandstand (it's free). Hopefully we'll have good weather this year!
- **The Big Give match-funding campaign: 22<sup>nd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> June (details to follow)**
- **Please note** - there will be no Community Fun Day on the Green, by St Peters, this year. It's having a break for a year whilst St Peters' building work takes place.



Please also 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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**reskilledwood**



**reskilledcharity**

**Reg. Charity no. 1181800**