



*Lover*

 Repair Café

A (very) short history

BY MARTIN DAVIES (VOLUNTEER AND MANAGEMENT TEAM)

# Introduction

My name is Martin Davies

- I'm an electronic engineer by training.
- I worked in BBC Engineering Research,
- I managed large computer networks for the BBC and for two investment banks in the City
- I was a Building Project Manager
- I retired in December 2020
- I Joined Lover Repair Café in February 2021
- I specialise in electronic equipment, watches, optics and computers/computing.
- I developed and manage the spreadsheets we use to record our activities.



# Lover Repair Café

Do Not Bin It – We May Fix It

## What \*is\* Lover?

- **Lover** (pronounced like Dover) is a small village in Wiltshire, close to the border with Hampshire.
- It is about 7.5 miles southeast of Salisbury.
- It has a population of around 2,800 people
- Lover residents decorate their village with hearts and run a pop-up Post Office for two weeks before Valentine's Day.
- They run the 'Worlds Biggest' Village Garage Sale in April



## How did we start?



- In 2018, Paul Bromage and Maurice Caustick got to know each other as part of a local group of people who were learning how to use computers.
- They both had something in common. They both wanted to do more to help the local community.
- They looked around on the Internet for something that would challenge them and discovered the Mens Shed organisation.
- They searched again after being challenged by the ladies in the group, and they discovered the **Repair Café** Organisation.
- They founded the **Lover Repair Café** in March 2019

# Who are Lover Repair Café?



## Lover Repair **Café** :

- Meets every Wednesday and Friday morning in the Village Hall.
- Operate a walk-in service – no pre-booking required.
- Have around fifty volunteer repairers – some of whom can only work from home.
- Repairers include qualified professionals and unqualified helpers who learn new skills
- Dismantles unrepairable items into metals, plastics, electronics for recycling
- Have clients in Wiltshire, Hampshire, Dorset – and farther afield

We repair **clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, clocks, bicycles, crockery, tools, toys – and more!**  
And we have a saying: **DO NOT BIN IT – WE MAY FIX IT!**

# Who are Lover Repair Café?



**We didn't let Covid stop us working.**

Instead, we worked throughout the Pandemic by changing how we operate.

We modelled ourselves more on **The Repair Shop** TV show where people drop off their jobs, we repair them and then they collect them.

Our clients asked us to start taking donations for the NHS

**We believe we were the only Repair **Café** in the UK to operate throughout Covid.**



Since starting in 2019 we have donated over **£26,000** to charity

We make regular, monthly donations to:

- Salisbury Hospital Stars Appeal
- Salisbury Hospice
- Wiltshire Air Ambulance
- Home Start South Wiltshire
- Lover and Redlynch Pre-school
- Morgan's Vale & Woodfalls Academy
- Hale Pre-school

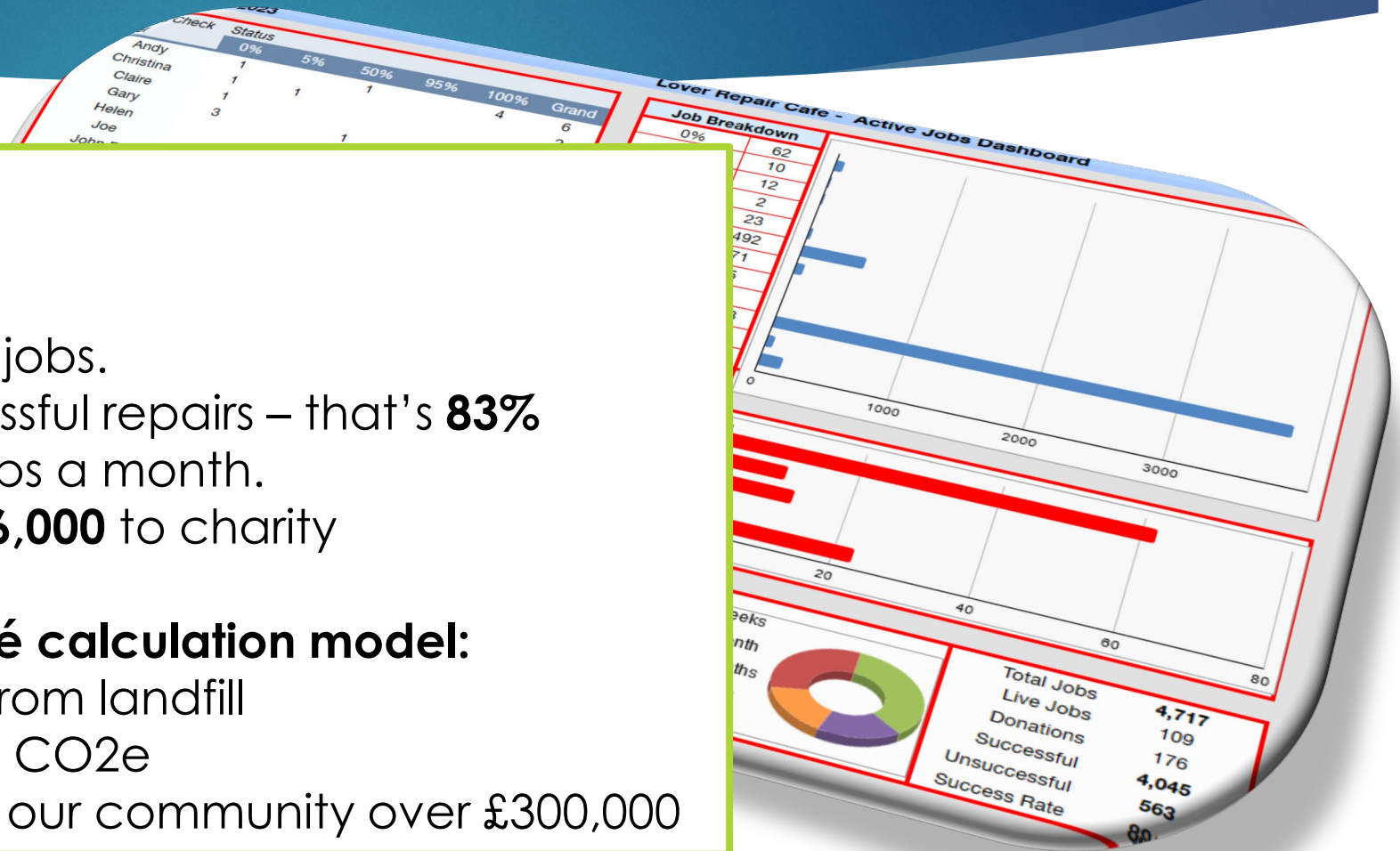
# Job Statistics

## Since starting in 2019:

- We've held **360** events
- We have over **940** clients
- We have completed **4,600** jobs.
- Of those, **3,800** were successful repairs – that's **83%**
- On average, we take **90** jobs a month.
- We have donated over **£26,000** to charity

## Using the Farnham Repair Café calculation model:

- We've diverted **14** tonnes from landfill
- We've saved **154** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e
- We have potentially saved our community over **£300,000**

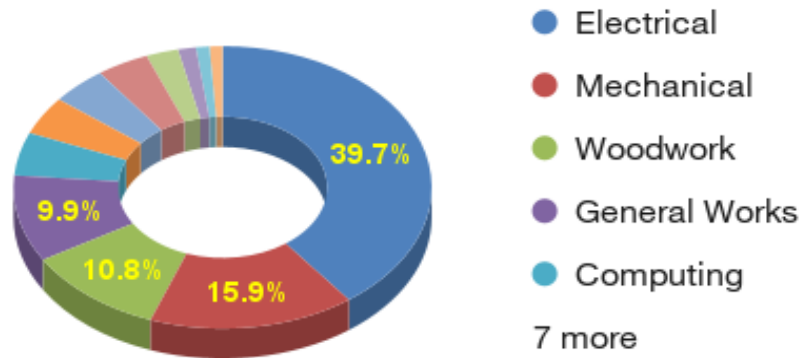




## What sort of jobs do we do?

We class our jobs into Categories.  
 The full list of categories is

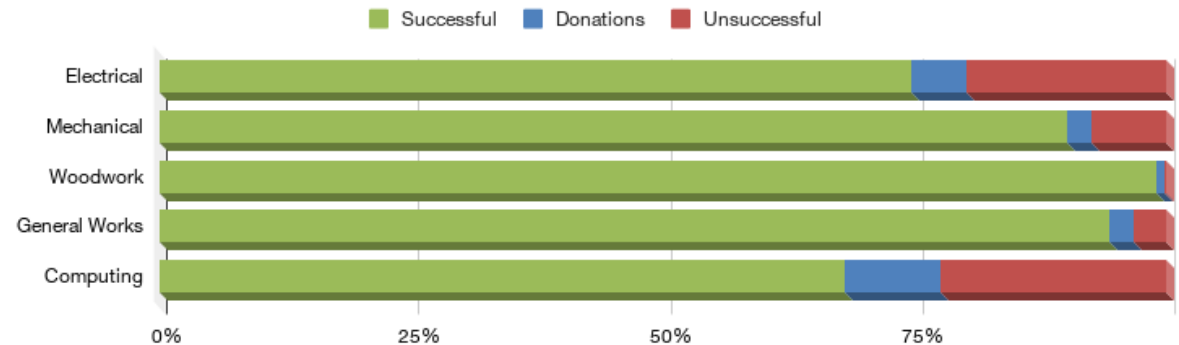
*Electrical, Mechanical, Woodwork, General Works, Computing, Textiles, Ceramic/Glass, Metalwork, Toy Repair, Jewellery, Advice, Bicycles*



## How successful are we?

Some types of jobs are more successful than others. For example, Woodworking jobs are almost 100% successful, while we are only 81% successful with electrical repairs – and only 78% successful with technology (mainly printers).

Top Five Job Categories



But it's not about statistics...

It's about sharing life skills  
and helping each other



It's about seeing the joy  
on people's faces when  
we hand back something  
precious.



It's about providing  
somewhere for people to  
come and chat

*Love*



*Repair Café*

And this isn't the whole story.

- ▶ The Café meets twice a week and provides a regular social focus for the community, where visitors can come along for a coffee, a cake and a chat.
- ▶ It's also there for the Repairers, who value the friendship, support and social side in addition to the challenges posed by the variety of repairs that come through the door.
- ▶ Many visitors have commented on how positive the atmosphere is during our meetings – creating a real sense of community.



## And finally – Recognition?



Lover Repair Cafe has been shortlisted from over 200 nominations as one of four finalists in the **Community Group** category for BBC Radio Wiltshire's **Make A Difference** Awards.

The Award Ceremony will be held on 23rd September in Swindon.



Do Not Bin It – We May Fix It

Thank  
you!