



...a Not-for-Profit Social Enterprise

MakeIt WorkShop CIC is a Community Interest (not-for-profit) Company, based in the northern seaside resort of Southport.

Our company, that during its short life has evolved to achieve a number of different yet closely related aims, began as a small dedicated group of individuals who created a 'workshop' for the refurbishment of tools and sewing machines to support charities working with disadvantaged communities in Africa. From these humble beginnings we have become a full-blown community-based company. The drivers behind this evolution have been the need to raise funds, the enterprising nature of our members and the demands that emerged from our local community:

- To provide volunteering and paid work opportunities, especially for younger people
- To provide a business wherein younger members could learn valuable real-world employability, organisational and inter-personal skills
- To provide a way in which older members would be able to give back to their community through the process of skills transfer
- To support charitable and other community-orientated causes
- To play our part in regenerating the retail centre of the town

As a [Social Enterprise](#), our dedicated staff of mainly unpaid volunteers (now numbering around 30), work together as a team to keep the company going and providing the community services it offers, whilst at the same time supporting and collaborating with other similar groups and charities including The Men's Sheds Association, Healthy Planet, Tools with a Mission, up-cycling experts Total Reuse in Skelmersdale and the charities Macmillan Cancer Research and Combat Stress, to name but a few.

Although tools continue to be an important part of what we do, we have now grown far beyond this limited aim. Situated at the heart of the town and very much part of the town centre regeneration 'project', from our four small shops our 'projects' sell all manner of donated items along with vintage and novelty telephones, bric-a-brac, tools, up-cycled furniture and household goods, electrical and media equipment, collectables, arts and

crafts and clothing (including vintage and fancy dress) to name but a few. Our repair services are provided to local residents and this and our sales generate our funds and also serve as a community focus and as a constructive way of giving back. Funds are important to cover our overheads and to keep our individual repair and service projects running and re-investing in their future. Our Projects, of which there are now 8, represent the primary fundraising element of the company as well as providing an active learning environment for our members.

One of our longer-term yet we believe wholly achievable aims is the creation of paid work. It remains our dream that through all manner of (technical and otherwise) skills-transfer between the company members (and most importantly the younger ones amongst us) we can create much needed jobs. To-date we have created not only two (modestly) paid roles but have also seen a number of our former members depart possessing a new found confidence and the skills they need to take an active role in the wider workforce, all acquired within the safe and friendly work environment that *is* MIW, a 'place and space' which we are all proud to have created together.

The series of self-managed projects (like 'little businesses in their own right) that make up the fundraising capacity of MIW were always envisaged to be a sustainable way in which to take the overall company forward and up until now we are immensely proud to have remained debt-free and self sufficient, entirely funded through our own efforts and enterprising creativity, hence our motto:

“ for ourselves, together for each other”

In MIW individual enterprise is encouraged yet always within the context of teamwork wherein the individual, the team and the company benefits, grows, strengthens and develops.



Re-use, repair and service along with community regeneration are at the core of our beliefs and these fundamental tenets guide us and the manner in which we operate; for example, a large proportion of the items and materials we use and sell are donated by local people. This promotes a form of social investment that we believe is quite unique; by bringing to us the things they no longer need or that need repair local residents are helping us transform these things into a social good, rather than seeing these unwanted materials being dumped into already heavily over-used landfill.

So, the shops raise much needed funds but they also serve as a focal point for community action and community investment that runs counter to a decay and loss of collective purpose that is such a sad reflection of many of today's local communities.

H

ow can you help? There are many ways:

- By donating items or materials you no longer need
- By joining us as a volunteer or as a supporter
- By Promoting us and our services in and around the local community
- By financially investing in us and the work that we do

We *are* MakeItWorkShop CIC

Why not come and visit us, we are behind the Atkinson Art Centre...

MakeItWorkShop CIC

8-18 Cambridge Walks

Southport

[PR8 1EN](#) ([click to see a map](#))

Our main telephone numbers are:

landline – 01704 53 51 23

mobile – 0793 027 7240

This is our main email address: makeit.southport@gmail.com

Contact us regarding...

- **Tool Donations**
- **Collection of donated items** for the MakeItShops
- **Volunteering opportunities**
- **To call or email us about anything or everything**
use: makeit.southport@gmail.com

or give us a call on **01704 53 51 23**