



Share & Repair

SHARE & REPAIR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION 2021

Transition Town Tooting's **Share & Repair** project celebrates and shares the act of repairing, fixing and making in the local community.

A highlight of our **Repair Fest 2021** is a photography exhibition offering a window into a selection of over 20 local businesses in the community where you can get items, fixed, stitched, welded, and repaired. By changing the habit of throwing things out and choosing to repair you will save money and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

AJ Welding Services photographed by Steve Reeves



Alan Hawkins has run AJ Welding in Wimbledon for the last 25 years. He loves his work and said that his job is rarely dull because it's so diverse.

When I took this shot, he'd just made a cool, gothic-looking pull-up bar for a friend who was a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. The guy was a bomb disposal expert and was left disabled after one exploded on him. Alan's pull-up bar will help his friend keep fit. Alan was also commissioned to use his welding skills to create four 15 ft steel horses for an international polo tournament, which he says was an incredible experience. Much of his work is smaller scale though. Alan said that he's one of the only welders around who will do smaller jobs, and he loves to use his welding skills to fix things as he detests waste.

Several of his customers are local Indian restaurant owners that come in asking him to re-weld handles back onto pots and pans. He said he finds this satisfying as they'd be thrown away otherwise.

Wimbledon Art Studios, 10 Riverside Rd, SW17 0BB
07949 554 574

ana bela's alterations & repairs **photographed by Steve Reeves**



It was hard to take a shot of Anabela. Her shop 'ana bela's' in Tooting Market was so busy. There was a constant stream of people coming in wanting an item of clothing altered or repaired. In the short time I was there, I saw a guardsman who needed an adjustment to his uniform, a guy who had ripped a brand new glove, and somebody whose jackets had frayed sleeves. Anabel said she could repair them all. She trained as a tailor back in Portugal and spent several years working for the fashion brand, Pierre Cardin. She still makes clothes and recently made an unveiling cloth for a new residential care home in Putney that was opened by the Queen. Anabela clearly loves her job and told me that she gets a great deal of pleasure from repairing an item that a customer loves too much to replace. I finally managed to take a shot, and as I left, Anabel said, "I love the people I work with, and I love making my customers happy."

Unit 18 Tooting Market, SW17 0RJ
07956 456 181

Austin Mowers photographed by Steve Reeves



Bill has worked at Austin Mowers in Garrett Lane for the last 40 years. He took the place over from his dad, Austin, who set the shop up in the early sixties. His family lived in Wandsworth for as long as he can remember but recently moved out to Reigate in Surrey for a bit more space.

When Bill was a kid, he would drive his parents mad because he loved taking his toys apart and putting them back together again. Bill told me that he just loves understanding how things work, so it's hardly surprising that he followed in his dad's footsteps and now repairs lawnmowers and other garden machinery.

300 Garratt Lane, SW18 4EH
austin-mowers.co.uk
020 8874 4206

Dunnes Shoe Repairs **photographed by Steve Reeves**



Dunnes in Tooting was set up by Peter Dunne nearly 40 years ago. They cut keys, do engraving, and repair shoes and bags. Pictured is Ashley, Peter's son, who has worked in the store for 13 years.

Ashley showed me some before and after photos of shoes that Dunnes have repaired over the years. Lots of the before shots showed footwear that dogs and foxes had chewed. To me, they looked destroyed, but in the after photos, they looked as good as new. Ashley said that business is good, but they don't get as many shoe repairs as they used to. "People just throw damaged or worn shoes away. It's a shame because more often than not, we can repair them; we love the challenge.

2 Bank Chambers, Tooting High Street, SW17 0SU
broadway-engraving.co.uk
020 8682 0618

GB Collections photographed by Steve Reeves



This is Ghazala, the owner 'GB Collections' in Tooting Market. Ghazala came to Britain from Northern Pakistan 14 years ago. She originally settled in Liverpool where her family were the only Pakistani family in the street, however, the locals were really friendly and made her feel very welcome. She then moved to London and set up GB Collections which specialises in tailoring and Asian garments like petticoats and Sari blouses. She loves living in Tooting as everything is so convenient. It's close to the Islamic Centre and she really likes the fact that it's such a cosmopolitan place so she gets to see a real mixture of people every day. The person in charge of the market really looks after all the different shop owners and there's a real sense of community.

Ghazala is married to a solicitor and, now that her kids are older, has managed to find the time to take several evening classes in flower arrangement, card making, sewing and business studies at South Thames College. Her dream is to be a fashion designer.

Unit 26, Tooting Market, SW17 0RJ

Macguys photographed by Laura Shimili



Yousuf Khan, the owner of Macguys, has always had a passion for repairing electronic devices. He first ran a computer repair shop in his native country of Pakistan. In 2011, he moved to the UK and, in May of the same year, he opened Macguys in Tooting Bec. Specialising in services for all Apple products from iPhones to Macs, the team successfully help people with all manner of repairs from battery replacement to water damage and broken screens.

112 Tooting Bec Road, SW17 8BQ
Macguys.co.uk
020 8767 1955

Mrs Trindle Hat Hire & Alterations **photographed by Laura Shimili**



Mrs Trindle's passion for sewing started at aged three then, at aged seven, she discovered a love for wearing hats. After building up years of experience and her continued enthusiasm for her craft, she opened her own business in 2019. You will find her busy at work from her garden studio where she offers occasion hat hire and alterations to literally anything! From bespoke alterations, to bridal wear, curtains, blinds as well as making cushions and home furnishings to order. Mrs Trindle is a genius when it comes to mending and creating.

For appointments contact 07966 532 588

R.S Quality Dry Cleaners **photographed by Steve Reeves**



Riz came to Britain from Pakistan in 1999 to marry an English girl. It was an arranged marriage, and Riz told me that 22 years later, he and his wife are both very happy. He loves living in Britain – even the weather. His wife used to work in Sainsbury's in Balham, but now she stays at home to look after their daughters, aged 11 and 13.

Covid has had a terrible effect on Riz's business. He'd been allowed to stay open during the pandemic but he's lost at least 70% of his trade. Most people who live around his shop are office workers who regularly came in to get their suits, shirts, and blouses laundered for work. These customers are now working from home so they don't use Riz's shop as much. Riz has spent all his savings trying to keep the business going. He said that this is a tough time, but he remains optimistic that things will get better. If you need any dry cleaning or alterations, pop in to see Riz, you can't miss him; he'll be sitting in the window, as always, behind that sewing machine.

242 Balham High Road, SW17 7NW
rsqualitydrycleaners.com
07447 992913

Roberts Bespoke Tailoring **photographed by Amy Adams**



The premises at 10 Selkirk Road has always been the site of tailoring establishments. The first tailor opened in 1886 and a large amount of his work was to make the uniforms for the Merchant Navy docked at Southampton. These specialist tailors were known as “merchant tailors” – today, there are very few surviving merchant tailors.

The second tailor to move in was of Jewish decent. When Mr Roberts acquired the premises over fifty years ago, he became the third tailor to carry out the trade of bespoke tailoring from the site on Selkirk Road.

Mr Roberts has now retired, however, the business continues to thrive under the management of his son, Joseph, and his experienced team.

10 Selkirk Road, SW17 0ES
020 8672 6294

Sew Much More **photographed by Bryony Williams**



If you have ever met Zahed from Sew Much More, then you won't be surprised to hear that before he acquired the business in Broadway Market, he used to be a salesman. After years of selling cars, he became restless and was looking for a new challenge. It was his wife who was a customer of the previous owner, who suggested he swap selling cars for tailoring and alterations. So, in 2015, he acquired Sew Much More, and, with his talented team, they are busy hemming trousers, altering wedding dresses and even creating clothes designed from scratch.

When I ask what he loves about his job, he says "It gives me satisfaction and great pleasure. It feels good to see someone satisfied when they come to pick up."

Unit 85, Broadway Market, SW17 0RJ
07939 964 007



Share & Repair

Meet our local photographers who contributed to this project. Their mutual love of the Tooting area, along with their talent and time has made this project come alive.



Amy Adams
@amyadams.photo
Amyadamsphotography.com



Steve Reeves
@stevereevesdirector
Stevereevesphotographer.com



Laura Shimili
@lauraphotographylondon



Bryony Williams
@findmeintooting

The support of our partners has been invaluable in producing this photography exhibition. A big thanks to:

**Baron, Edgar and Rob at
Tooting Market**
21-23 Tooting High Street, SW17 0SN
tootingmarket.com

**Shazna and Tamara at The Printing
Place, 1 Selkirk Road, SW17 OER**
theprintingplace.co.uk

For an interactive map of these and other repair businesses around Tooting – and all the latest from

Share & Repair – go to:

www.transitiontooting.org/2021/03/share-repair.html

To all of the businesses that agreed to participate in this project, you are all stars in the mission to encourage people to **Share & Repair**. Thank you!

- Alan Hawkins – AJ Welding
- Anabela – Ana Bela's Alterations
- Peter and Ashley Dunne – Dunnes Shoe Repairs
- Ghazala – GB Collections
- Yousef and Hafsa – MacGuys
- Sarah – Mrs Trindle Hat Hire & Alterations
- Riz – R.S Quality Dry Cleaners
- Joseph and Anil – Roberts Bespoke Tailoring
- Zahed – Sew Much More

