ARTICLE ABOUT PETE REGAN, guitar repairer

The Ruthin Repair Café, which is held on the first Saturday of each month at the Naylor Leyland Centre, has an array of talented ‘fixperts’ on hand. Sewers, electricians, jewellers, craftspeople, IT support experts, bicycle repairers, and general fixers attend the Repair Café every month. You can even take your guitar or bass guitar along to be repaired – and if you do, Pete Regan is the person to see.

It was Pete’s interest in the environment and his association with Friends of the Earth that got him involved in the Repair Café. He believes passionately in repairing and recycling whenever possible.

He said, “I love the feeling I get when working alongside other fixers, and the whole team, at the Repair Café. It’s so rewarding to bring unused articles back into circulation. Some guitars have been lying around for years, leaning against a wall somewhere, without being played, but they can soon be brought back to life.”

Pete, who until his retirement in 2013 worked as a scientist in pharmaceutical development, is a self-taught guitarist. He has enjoyed playing the guitar from a young age and has taught many students to play too. It was his love of music that led him to repair guitars himself; he used to take the audio parts out of radios so that he could fix and build guitar amplifiers. He has also built several guitars from scratch.

His first job at the Repair Café was to replace a broken string, but since then he has overhauled several guitars, setting up and replacing the strings, and making the instruments more playable. It’s a comprehensive service – all for the price of a small donation.

Pete’s wife, Diana Sanders, who is also a Repair Café fixpert, repairs musical instruments too, but her specialism is woodwind, focusing on flutes and clarinets.

In fact, Pete and Diana are a talented duo. In their spare time, they are members of the local folk-rock band ‘The Amazing Clouds’, who will next be performing at The Wine Vaults in Ruthin on Friday, 27th May at 8pm. Why not go along and support them?

Or if you have an instrument of your own that you’d like repairing, the next Ruthin Repair Café will be held on Saturday, 4th June (10.45am – 1.30pm), and Pete and Diana will be on hand to assist.