Grantown Remakery Newsletter

Autumn 2026 at The Remakery: Building on Success

Autumn 2026 has arrived, and it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what has been another remarkable period of growth for The Remakery. Whether you are one of our trainees developing confidence and practical skills, a customer who has entrusted us with a cherished family heirloom, a volunteer who gives their time and expertise so generously, or simply a supporter of what we do, thank you for being part of our journey.

Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our role within the community and expand our impact across Strathspey and beyond. The additional space we leased in 2025 has transformed how we work and we were able to purchase it in January of this year, securing the shop for the future and allowing us to increase workshop capacity, improve our retail offering and create more opportunities for learning, creativity, and connection.

A Growing Home for a Growing Community

The expansion into our neighbouring premises has proven to be a significant milestone in The

Remakery's development. What was once a much-needed solution to space constraints has quickly become a vibrant extension of our project, enabling more repairs, more training opportunities and more community engagement.

The additional room has allowed us to improve workflow within the workshop, display a greater range of restored furniture and household items, and provide dedicated spaces for trainees to develop practical skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.

As demand for our services continues to rise, we remain committed to ensuring that growth never comes at the expense of quality, care, or community values. Every item restored, every trainee supported and every conversation shared over a cup of tea reinforces the purpose behind everything we do.

Repairing More, Wasting Less

The appetite for repair and restoration continues to grow, and we could not be more encouraged by the community's enthusiasm for choosing repair over replacement.
In March of this year, we began a Reuse and Repair Project in partnership with Highland Council, this has allowed us to increase our repair throughput by about 200% so far this year, a record number of repair commissions. From antique furniture and upholstery projects to much-loved household items that simply deserved a second chance, our workshop has been busier than ever.

Every repair completed represents something much bigger than a finished piece of furniture. It represents resources saved, waste avoided and the preservation of stories, memories and craftsmanship that deserves to be passed on to future generations.
The principles of Restore, Reuse and Recycle remain at the heart of everything we do, and we are proud to continue contributing to the wider environmental ambitions of our region. At a time

when sustainability has never been more important, we are grateful for the growing number of people who actively choose the circular economy over throwaway culture.

High Street Commitment

Grantown-on-Spey's High Street continues to be one of the town's greatest assets, and we remain proud to play our part in its success.

Over a year ago we were very saddened to lose our Landlord, Grant Mortimer who was a huge supporter of everything that we did. While this has left some uncertainty about the future of the workshop which we leased from him it has also provided us with an opportunity. It is our intention to raise the funds required to purchase the property which would provide long term security for the organisation.

As many communities across Scotland continue to face challenges in maintaining thriving town centres, Grantown stands as an inspiring example of what can happen when businesses, organisations and residents work together. The creativity, resilience, and independent spirit of our local businesses contribute enormously to the unique character of the town.
Visitors regularly tell us how much they enjoy discovering something unexpected at The Remakery, whether it is a beautifully restored piece of furniture, a unique gift or simply a welcoming conversation.
We are proud to contribute to the atmosphere that makes Grantown such a special place to live, work and visit.

Celebrating Our Trainees

Supporting people remains central to our mission.

Throughout 2026, trainees have continued to develop not only practical skills but also confidence, independence and a sense of purpose. Some have progressed into employment, others have returned to education, while many have discovered strengths and aspirations, they were previously unaware they possessed.

The new systems introduced following Sam's visit to Gateshead have significantly improved our ability to monitor and celebrate trainee progress. By capturing personal development alongside practical achievements, we can now build a richer picture of the impact our programmes have on individuals and their future opportunities.

The stories emerging from these journeys continue to inspire us. Every trainee who learns a new skill, grows in confidence or takes a positive step forward reminds us why this work matters.

Volunteers at the Heart of What We Do

The Remakery simply would not exist without the dedication of our volunteers.
They contribute thousands of hours each year across every aspect of the organisation, from mentoring trainees and supporting customers to helping maintain workshops, sorting donations and sharing specialist skills.
Their generosity, patience and community spirit embody everything The Remakery seeks to achieve. To everyone who volunteers with us, thank you. Your contribution makes a genuine and lasting difference.

Staff

We need to say a particular thanks to our staff, Tomas for the very high-quality work done in the workshop, Sam for his work with individuals and for beginning to take on some of the day-to-day management of everything that happens at the Remakery and our newest member of staff Jana who has been a breath of fresh air in the shop.

Looking Forward

While we take pride in what has been achieved, we remain ambitious for the future. We know there are more people who could benefit from opportunities to learn, contribute and grow. We know that communities need welcoming spaces where people feel connected and valued. And we know that the environmental challenges facing future generations require practical, local solutions alongside national action.

The coming year will bring fresh opportunities to strengthen partnerships, expand services and continue demonstrating that repair, reuse, and community development can go hand in hand. We begin that with a series of workshops which will take place over the next year where people can come in, bring a piece of their own furniture, and learn how to carry out the work themselves. We are grateful to Cairngorm 2030 Community Fund and the National Lottery Small Eko Fund for supporting these workshops.

Thank You

As always, we would like to thank our customers, trainees, volunteers, donors, funders and supporters for making our work possible. Your encouragement, commitment, and belief in what we do enables The Remakery to continue growing while staying true to the values that shaped it from the beginning. We are especially grateful to the many organisations, trusts and community funds that continue to invest in our vision and help create lasting opportunities for people across our area.

We look forward to welcoming you into the shop over the coming months. Whether you are dropping off a treasured piece for repair, searching for something unique for your home, or simply popping in for a chat, you will always find a warm welcome waiting for you.

And finally!

We have published our Fair Work First Statement as well as being a Real Living Wage and Living Hours Employer, and our Climate Action Plan which we believe to be about Sustainable Transformation and Community Leadership. Both are available to download from our website.

Thank you for being part of The Remakery community.

Pete and George
Project and Development Managers