A GARMENT MENDING RESEARCH JOURNEY
ONCE UPON A MEND IN ASHBY...

WHY DO WE NEED TO MEND?
350,000 TONNES of clothing are discarded a year (WRAP 2017) and yet 166 MILLION items of clothing could be worn again if they were repaired (WRAP 2012).

WHAT ARE THE RESEARCH AIMS?

• To empower individuals to mend clothing by running workshops or by using Repair Cafés or professional repair services.
• Raising awareness of mending within my community, academia, industry, and wider society by mapping out the current mending landscape

HOW WILL IT BE INVESTIGATED?
A multi-method qualitative study comprising of:

FIND
Mapping of 3 towns with repair service providers, tools suppliers, activities and resource areas identified

OBSERVE
Involvement in garment mending activities as a mender to gain a deeper understanding of this subject

TALK
Interviews and informal discussions to gain different perspectives

ACT
Designing and running interventions to capture specific data that attending other events would not

MEASURE
Mended items will be counted, weighed and assessed show the carbon, water and waste were saved

WHAT EARLY WORK HAS BEEN DONE?

• A literature review identified themes, debates, gaps, and pertinent issues
• A walking tour method was undertaken on Ashby de la Zouch to map out the ecosystem
• Field visits to mending activities were undertaken to identify areas of study
• Mending tasks were performed to understand complexity and resources
• Resources have been identified including video tutorials to support the menders
• An compilation of mending studies showed a decline in mending over time

WHAT MIGHT BE FOUND?

• A pathway of mending could be further developed
• The issue of mending being ‘hidden’ may lead to a reassessment of current interventions
• Visible mending maybe an easier technique for the unskilled to utilise
• A growth in interest in mending could be further confirmed through the empirical data.
• Potential key mending hubs could be found