

reuse repurpose
restyle

free

My tote bag and me

Discovering the benefits of
a truly unique bag

Top 10 tips for charity shopping

from fashion stylist
Rebekah Roy

Transforming old to new

Upcycling old furniture into
eye-catching pieces

lifestyle magazine

EDITION 8 - WINTER





Welcome

to our latest edition of
reuse, repurpose, restyle!

Welcome to the 8th edition of our Restyle magazine! This winter season, we are bringing you lots of sustainable tips and tricks. We collaborated with fashion stylist Rebekah Roy for Sustainable Fashion Week, and we took the opportunity to ask her a few questions, which you can read on page 3. Rebekah also hosted a webinar where she shared her sustainable shopping advice and charity shopping tips, which you can read about on pages 10-11.

Volunteer Johannes Witter talks about his furniture upcycling projects in our Burnley donation centre on pages 6-7, and on pages 8-9, our colleague Sabine Petkevica shares why a denim tote bag is a staple wardrobe piece.

We opened our 50th donation centre and celebrated on page 14. We also found out about our customers' favourite purchases on page 4. Discover our favourite items on page 5 and take the 'weekend decluttering' challenge on page 12.

If you have ideas of your own that you would like to share with us, don't hesitate to get in touch! We'd love to hear from you!

 @salvationarmycharityshops

 @salvationarmyshops

 @salvationarmyshopsUK



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Published by Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd (SATCoL)

SATCoL was established in 1991 to help fund The Salvation Army's vital work with vulnerable people in the UK, and today we raise money and encourage reuse and recycling through a network of clothing banks, charity shops, donation centres and superstores. With the support of the British public, we have donated millions of pounds to The Salvation Army (over £80 million has been donated in the last ten years).



**SALVATION ARMY
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Ask us...

Do you have a question or is there something you have always wanted to know about our charity shops? Email us your questions to media@satcol.org

In this edition we ask **fashion stylist, Rebekah Roy, about sustainable shopping.**

Meet Rebekah Roy, a renowned fashion stylist with over 2 decades of experience, having styled some of the most iconic names in music and entertainment, including Duran Duran, Billy Idol, Enya and more. Her expertise in creating captivating looks has earned her a reputation for pushing boundaries, but it's her deep commitment to sustainability that truly sets her apart. Rebekah integrates eco-conscious choices into her work, proving that fashion and sustainability can go hand in hand. This is a journey that began for Rebekah when she was styling a band for a 70s-inspired music video.

Even though the brief called for all new clothes, Rebekah brought along several second-hand pieces that perfectly matched the vibe. To her surprise, the band naturally gravitated towards these pre-loved items, recognising their unique characters. This experience sparked Rebekah's passion for incorporating second-hand fashion into her work.

For Rebekah, choosing second-hand is more than just finding a bargain; it's about embracing a sustainable lifestyle that reduces waste, celebrates creativity, and tells a story through each carefully selected piece. Today, about 50% of her wardrobe is second-hand.

Rebekah collaborated with us for Sustainable Fashion Week (an event dedicated to promoting sustainable practices within the fashion world), and we took the opportunity to ask her a few questions on how to embrace second-hand shopping like a pro, and why it's one of the best choices you can make for your wardrobe and the planet.

Read more of Rebekah's tips and tricks on charity shopping on pages 10-11.



How can we start shopping second-hand?

Start with a clear plan by knowing what's already in your wardrobe and identifying what gaps you need to fill. Prioritise items that will complete your outfits, and remember, you don't need to find everything on the first trip - enjoy the process!

How do we know if an item is of good quality when shopping second-hand?

Look for natural fabrics, check the stitching and seams, and inspect the garments properly.

How do we figure out our personal style?

Take some time to explore what clothes make you feel confident and comfortable. You can start by building a capsule wardrobe with versatile pieces that reflect your personality. Second-hand stores offer endless opportunities to experiment with new styles without breaking the bank!

Our customers love...



@Nifty_Thrifty_Style_23:

I've been a regular shopper at local Salvation Army shops for many years. They have a great selection of clothing in lots of sizes to suit everyone. I've found some absolutely gorgeous items and all at very reasonable prices. A bargain is always like finding treasure. The staff are all friendly & helpful. Highly recommend a visit to your local SA shop to see what you can find.

Elle is wearing a brand new handbag found in our charity shops.

@_thegreendiva:

Shopping secondhand feels like a win-win for me as not only am I lowering my carbon footprint by not buying new, but I am also saving money and preventing clothes from going to landfill. It also has allowed me to experiment and understand my style more, as I am buying things I actually love rather than what is trending in high street shops!

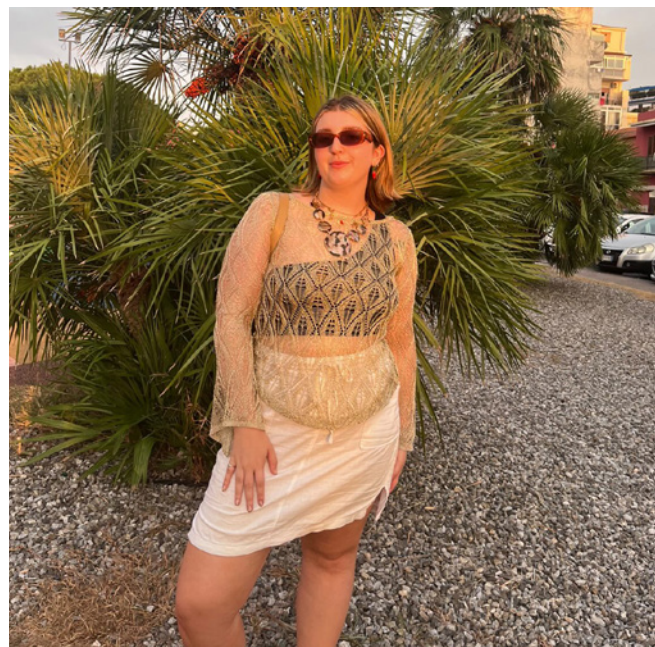
Laura is wearing accessories bought from our charity shops.



@Brum_and_thrft:

Hi, I'm Frances and I love secondhand shopping. I seriously got into thrifting about 2 years ago and particularly love finding quirky and vintage items. My wardrobe is now full of fun and unique preloved pieces. I firmly believe you don't have to break the bank to have fun with your style.

I've also found some amazing designer and branded pieces in charity shops. I bought this Cos dress for £10 in the Salvation Army in Worcester, which I recently wore to a wedding. So with some rummaging you can still find a bargain in the charity shops.



We love...



Hand painted bags

We are delighted to present to you these hand painted tote bags that can be found in our Hemel Hempstead branch. The bags are a donation from shop manager Claire Olliffe who is also the artist. These bags aren't the only DIY creation that Claire brought into the shop. She also hand-painted denim for a Sustainable Fashion Week window display and even painted a couple of T-shirts for a customer.

Claire started doing crafts last summer to help with her mental health and has since then taken a needle felting class and also a painting class. She then bought these tote bags and has started creating lots of new designs, which she donated to the Hemel Hempstead Salvation Army charity shop.

With Pinterest as an inspiration, Claire has now created dozens of designs, some of which can take up to an hour to paint! If you love these bags and want to get your hands on one, make sure you visit our Hemel Hempstead branch!

Winter Jackets

Winter is coming, and we all need a warm, cosy jacket to get through the chilly days ahead. But don't worry, you don't need to spend a lot to find the best cosy winter jacket that perfectly fits your style! Your local Salvation Army charity shop is the ideal place to hunt for a jacket that's both affordable and unique. Our shops have a wide range of winter jackets, from puffer coats to stylish wool jackets, there's something for everyone!

And there's another bonus—when you shop second-hand, you're helping reduce waste and giving a pre-loved item a second chance. It's good for your wallet and good for the planet! So why not stop by your nearest Salvation Army shop and take a look? You might just find the perfect winter jacket that's cosy, warm, and budget friendly. You'll feel great knowing you've saved money and made a difference by shopping second-hand!



Upcycling with Johannes Witter:

Transforming old furniture into new *Treasures*



At the Burnley donation centre, Johannes Witter is a familiar face, known for his skill in turning tired, old furniture into eye-catching pieces. For this edition, we took the opportunity to have a chat with Johannes and learn more about his upcycling journey and the passion behind his craft.

What do you enjoy most about upcycling furniture?

I really enjoy taking something old and making it new and interesting again, something that someone would want to buy. There's a special satisfaction in seeing the potential in an item and then transforming it into something fresh.

What inspired you to start upcycling?

I've always been fascinated by TV shows like 'Money for Nothing' on BBC. They take unwanted furniture and make beautiful things from it. It showed me that just because something looks a bit shabby, it doesn't mean it can't be something great.



How do you choose which item to upcycle next?

I look at each piece and ask myself: "Can I improve this?" If the answer is yes, then I get to work. My favourite projects are ones made from wood, whether it's a stained table or a worn cabinet, I know that with a bit of sandpaper and wax, I can make it look like new.

Do you have any advice for people looking to start their own upcycling journey?

Start small. A small table or bedside cabinet is a great first project. Don't be afraid to experiment, be creative and let yourself have fun with it.

What are the essential tools for upcycling?

You don't need much to get started, just some sandpaper, wax, a hammer, chalk paints, brushes, and, of course, patience. Patience is key!

Where do you find the furniture to upcycle?

All of the items I work on are donated to the Burnley donation centre. I fix them up, and then they go back into the shop for sale, helping to raise funds for The Salvation Army.

Can you tell us a bit about your volunteering journey?

I started as a van driver, picking up donations. After a while, I began assembling flat-pack furniture because no one else wanted to do it. Then, some older or damaged furniture came in, and I thought, "Why not try fixing it?" The first few pieces I worked on sold quickly, and that's when I knew this was something I could really get into.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy working on my allotment. I grow vegetables, and any extras go to the donation centre. I also love going to car boot sales to pick up bits and pieces for my projects: wheels, handles, hinges, you name it!

We also took the opportunity to ask Ilaria Roncetti, donation centre manager at Burnley about Johannes. Ilaria said: 'Johannes is a very jovial person. From day one as a volunteer, he gained great friendships with other volunteers and Corps members. He always wants to do his best to help raise vital funds for the charity. He is a very talented wood worker and crafter, and we have sold a lot of the items Johannes has improved. Customers love Johannes because he has a cheeky but charming way about him. He loves walking around the shop and advising customers about fitting an awkward shaped sofa in their homes. He is a true asset to our shop, but I might be a bit biased because he is also my partner.'





My tote bag and *me*

By Sabine Petkevica

It seems like tote bags have become a staple in every girl's wardrobe in the 21st century, and for a good reason. Gone are the days where you need to pre-plan your outings based on the size of your bag. Don't even get me started on forgetting to bring one with you when you decide to spontaneously hit the long stretch of charity shops in town!

Tote bags must check three of the most important boxes to stay in your wardrobe, and that's comfort, quality and practicality. Nowadays though, there is another checkbox that has made an appearance in the recent years and that's sustainability.

Although denim and sustainability might sound strange in the same sentence, one charity shop in your local high street is challenging that and it is The Salvation Army. As part of a new initiative, we have partnered with HMP Five Wells and their Prisoner Workshop Rehabilitation Programme, to repurpose and upcycle denim that would have otherwise found its way to a landfill. Each bag is unique, all serving a different purpose in various sizes and colours, and you may even find one with a branded patch such as Levi's, or in my case a simple Converse stitch.

Looking back at the checkboxes, practicality was definitely on the top of my list. With the growing lack of pockets in women's jeans, I knew that the day would come when I needed to invest in a tote bag that can



repurpose

carry my oversized key chain (if you could even call it that anymore) and my cat shaped Starbucks cup. Just the essentials...

However, I didn't want to compromise on comfort, and the idea of carrying a huge bag with me was daunting.

Personally, I'm a 'fold into a pocket' girl and to my surprise, my handy denim friend was perfect for this, ready to unfold whenever the need for it calls. The additional front pouch meant that all the small bits and bobs can stay secure and not find their way amongst the crumbs at the bottom of the bag. Although if you do happen to collect some mystery crumbs, the bag can be easily hand-washed and dried as normal – a great added bonus!

When the bags first hit the shelves at the charity shop, I jumped at the opportunity to grab one! A black and white number - my go to colour combo. The great thing about denim is that it's easy to dye, so you can experiment with colour combos that suit you.

This year, with the release of new designs, I knew I had to add one to my slowly growing collection, and thus began the latest series of outings. For any bag, it's important to know how well it performs in a day-to-day life. Afterall, we are often carrying some of our most precious valuables in them (such as cat cups). Despite some rainy days, my tote bag held up perfectly. From comfortably fitting in my laptop and notebook for my study days, to finding a space for some new charity shop goodies, last minute shopping trips for almond croissants and even 4 spontaneous boxes of hair dye, the bag was truly unstoppable. I can't wait to personalise it with my favourite pins and patches and create a **one-of-a-kind Sabine tote bag**. Whether you're new to tote bags, or have one too many in your wardrobe, a denim one is a **must**.

For your very own tote bag, visit your nearest Salvation Army charity shop!



Fashion stylist Rebekah Roy
shares her...

Top 10 tips for charity shopping



With over two decades of styling experience, and her fascinating love for second-hand shopping, Rebekah Roy was the perfect person to collaborate with for Sustainable Fashion Week. During the webinar, Rebekah shared her top 10 tips for making the most of your charity shop adventures.

1. Know Your Wardrobe

Before visiting the shops, have a look of what you already have. Identify what's missing from your wardrobe, whether it's the perfect pair of jeans or a quirky accessory to bring an outfit together.

2. Have a Plan, But Stay Open

While it's great to know what you're looking for, don't forget that the beauty of charity shopping is in the unexpected finds. Keep an open mind and let yourself be surprised by pieces you didn't know you needed!

3. Quality Matters

When shopping second-hand, quality should always be an important factor. Look for natural fabrics like cotton, wool, or silk, as they age better. Check for sturdy seams, solid stitching, and any signs of wear and tear that can easily be repaired. Familiarise yourself with brand labels and always inspect the garment for stains, holes, or any issues you're willing to fix.

4. Build a Capsule Wardrobe

Invest in versatile pieces that can mix and match. A classic blazer, a well-fitting pair of jeans, or a timeless trench coat are all great foundations. With a few essential items, you can create multiple outfits that will stand the test of time.





5. Shop Out of Season

Rebekah's favourite tip: shop for winter coats in the middle of summer! Charity shops often stock out-of-season items at bargain prices. You might just find a vintage treasure that everyone else will be hunting for months later.

6. Don't Forget Accessories

Charity shops are goldmines for unique accessories. From vintage scarves to designer handbags, these small additions can completely elevate your look. Don't shy away from bold jewelry or statement belts, they're the perfect way to add personality to any outfit.

7. Try Before You Buy

Sizes can vary widely, especially with vintage clothing. Always try things on to ensure they fit well. Don't forget, minor alterations can work wonders.

8. Frequent Your Favourite Stores

Rebekah suggests visiting your favourite stores regularly, as new items are often put out throughout the day. Be sure to check the rails again on your way out, you never know what hidden gems might have just been added.

9. Look Beyond Clothing

You can buy more than just fashion items from charity shops. Often, you can find beautiful home décor, furniture, and even rare books. Rebekah's own home is filled with pre-loved treasures, each with its own story to tell.

10. Stay Sustainable and Stylish

Above all, charity shopping is a way to align your wardrobe with your values. By choosing second-hand, you're not just saving money, you're supporting sustainability and reducing waste. Fashion doesn't have to be fast to be fabulous!



Declutter your home in one weekend

Decluttering can feel like an overwhelming task. One that we keep postponing and we only start when we absolutely have to. The thought of tackling piles of forgotten items, clothes we no longer wear, or old furniture, can easily deter anyone from even beginning. However, simplifying your home doesn't have to be a drawn-out process, it's possible to declutter your entire space in just one weekend with the right approach.

Here are the steps we recommend taking to simplify your decluttering journey:

1. Take one space at a time

Break the task down by focusing on one room or area before moving on to the next. Tackling the whole house at once can feel overwhelming, but sectioning it off will help you stay focused and avoid burnout. Start with the part of the house you like the most, such as your kitchen or your bedroom.

2. Set a timer

Assign a set time for each space - like 30 minutes or an hour - to keep the momentum going. This prevents spending too long in one area or on one task. Listening to music, having a Netflix show in the background or your favourite movie helps too!

3. Create three piles: keep, donate, discard

As you go through items, decide quickly which pile they belong in. The "keep" pile is for items you use regularly or hold sentimental value. The "donate" pile should consist of items in good condition that you no longer need but could be useful to others. For the "discard" pile, gather anything that's broken, expired, or beyond repair. Make sure you recycle!

4. Be decisive

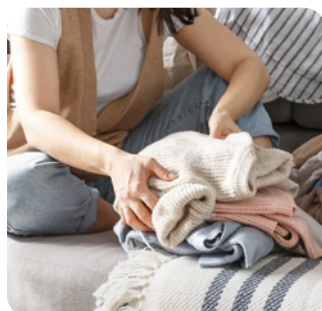
When decluttering items, try not to second-guess yourself. If you haven't used something in the last year, it likely doesn't belong in your home anymore. This helps maintain an easier process and reduces clutter more effectively.

5. Donate

Once your donation pile is ready, take it to a charity shop. Not only does this declutter your home, but it also supports a meaningful cause. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure.

By sticking to this structured method, decluttering becomes manageable and even rewarding. You'll simplify your home in just one weekend while contributing to a cause by donating items to those in need.

Remember your donations! Find your local salvation Army charity shop or donation centre here <https://salvationarmytrading.org.uk/find-us/> and pop in with your bag of donations. A friendly member of our team will be happy to help you.



Get rewards through our partner

Take Back Schemes

We've partnered with some of the largest retailers across the UK to give pre-loved fashion a new lease of life. These online return schemes are kinder to the planet with some brands offering a voucher or discount code to put towards your next purchase with them!

What's more, your pre-loved items will be sold in The Salvation Army charity shops across the UK and the money raised will go towards supporting The Salvation Army and their work helping vulnerable people.

Are you ready to earn rewards, help our planet and transform lives?

Repurposing your pre-loved clothes with our partners is now easier than ever! Visit our website to find out more about our partner schemes with John Lewis, Cotton Traders and Pretty Lavish.

Make your wardrobe work more to help others in just a few clicks: www.satcol.org/takebackshopping



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These schemes are operated by Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd (SATCoL). A minimum of 5 or 6 items per delivery must be returned. Full information is available via our website.



Celebrating 50 donation centres!



It seems that only yesterday I was writing my first article to introduce our donation centres and today, I am excited to announce that on August 20th, we opened our 50th Salvation Army donation centre in Coventry, marking a significant achievement in our mission to support communities across the UK.

Despite the rainy start, the day was filled with excitement, and the turnout reflected the importance of this new community hub. The Coventry donation centre isn't just a place to donate or shop; it's a space for the community to connect. With initiatives like Craft Clubs, Kilo Sales, a Repair Café, and a Community Necessity area, the donation centre is already making a meaningful impact.

The Coventry's donation centre is just one of 50 around the UK, all designed to provide unique services to both donors and shoppers. Every location offers convenient features that make donating and shopping easy and accessible. With many of these hosting ample parking, donation points, and even 24-hour clothing banks. This means contributing to our cause has never been easier. Additionally, we offer free furniture collection services, allowing donors to give back with ease.

When you visit one of our donation centres, you'll find an impressive variety of goods. Our stores are filled with affordable, high-quality secondhand

items, including clothes, shoes, and accessories, as well as furniture, books, and small electrical items. These products are not only perfect for bargain hunters but also help promote sustainability by reducing waste and encouraging reuse. Moreover, every purchase you make or item you donate helps fund critical Salvation Army programs that support the vulnerable, from homelessness services, to supporting victims of modern slavery.

I know you are curious, so if you haven't visited one of our donation centres yet, now is the time to do so. How to find your local one, you wonder? Just visit our website salvationarmytrading.org.uk and click on the 'Find Us' section. You will find lots of useful information in there, such as your local clothing bank, your local high street charity shop and, of course, your nearest donation centre!

I hope you enjoy your visit!

Andreea

Editor





Wet, Windy and Wild Southsea Beach Clean

Earlier in the year, some of our colleagues at Salvation Army Trading Company took on a green activity as part of the Great Big Green Week initiative – a beach clean!

Dan Breeze, Winchester Site Manager and Majonne Frost, Head of Environment and Sustainability, organised for a group of 12 people from our Clothing Collection, Retail and Environment Teams to come together. Equipped with litter pickers, bags and gloves, along with winter coats – the team were all set and ready to collect as much rubbish as possible.

The team walked along the Southsea (Portsmouth)

beach and surrounding areas, mostly coming across typical rubbish items, but also some stranger ones like a scooter, pieces of metal, shoes, and hats. After a few hours, several bags of rubbish were collected and disposed of at the Winchester Warehouse site.

Dan Breeze said: “It was a great day getting together, meeting new people and being out in the fresh air. The change of scenery compared to our normal day to day was a bonus. It was lovely to receive positive feedback from the colleagues that attended, who expressed that it was a good wellbeing & environment activity.”

Barnsley Baby Baskets: Supporting New Parents in Need

A collaborative project between Wombwell with Barnsley Salvation Army Church and the Barnsley donation centre is offering crucial help to new parents facing financial hardship through the Barnsley Baby Baskets initiative. Based at The Salvation Army in Park Street, the project provides essentials like baby grows, nappies, blankets, and more, for families struggling to afford necessities when bringing their newborns home.

Donations are collected by our Barnsley donation centre team on behalf of the Church. Volunteers from both, help support and coordinate the project. The scheme relies on referrals from Midwives or Barnsley Family Hub, and has received generous support from other local groups, who donate various items such as blankets and baby clothes.

Captain Diane Pryor, leading the project, reflected on

the impact: “It’s amazing to see the community using their talents to support those in need.”



"Thank You"

We are humbled and thrilled to be the
Charity Retail Association® winners of
Outstanding Charity Retailer of the Year 2024 and
Environmental & Sustainability Awards



This would not be possible without the dedication of our colleagues, including over 5,000 volunteers, who work hard every day to bring our customers an outstanding charity shopping experience. Thank you also to our customers, donors and supporters. With your help, we have raised over £80 million for The Salvation Army to support their vital work helping people in communities across the UK.

SATCoL (Salvation Army Trading Company Limited) operates around 240 charity stores on behalf of The Salvation Army. In June 2024, the Charity Retail Association announced SATCoL as the Outstanding Charity Retailer of the Year 2024 and winner of their Environmental and Sustainability Award.