

# The West embraces all things Vintage

As you all know I am a big fan of all things vintage, be it a fabulous 1950s prom dress or a cute tea set. I could probably write thousands of column inches on my love of vintage and reclaimed fashion and have always championed the importance of vintage and charity shops as a way of recycling previously loved items, keeping our planet greener and also saving some money. When I heard about the Vintage fair in Omagh I was overjoyed and delighted that there were other vintage enthusiasts like me in the West of the province. Having been to several Vintage Fairs in the Belfast area and knowing the little delights that can be picked up at them I was super excited about what I might find in Omagh.

Oma Fair Lady is a new venture, based in Omagh, dedicated to organising Fashion Fairs and Events incorporating all that is Vintage. The first ever Oma Fair Lady Vintage Fashion & Homewares Fair took place on Sunday in the Silverbirch Hotel in Omagh and it did not disappoint in terms of the many little treasures and delights that could be found. In my view it was the perfect way to spend a leisurely Sunday afternoon.

This was the first event of its kind in Omagh and I found it to be a unique and affordable shopping experience filled with nostalgic glamour, appealing to all generations, and bursting with little treasures; the perfect shopping occasion to purchase unique, one off pieces that can't be found on the High Street. I found it particularly exciting as at the moment I am decorating my new home and I wanted to find extra special unique items to display within my new home, which would not only make my house look different but would also give it a bit of character.

Of course I was also on the look out for some original clothing; I couldn't go purely to look at homeware. As I have mentioned in my articles many times vintage clothing and associated items are enjoying enormous popularity for those seek-

## Fermanagh's vintage fashion champion was overjoyed with the gems on display at the recent Oma Fair Lady show



ing something unique and different to create a more individual style.

All High Street shops are influenced by vintage trends and fashion designers look to fashion history for inspiration for their future designs. Each vintage item has a past and a story and there is great satisfaction in owning one-off, collectable pieces.

Many celebrities from Sarah Jessica Parker to Nicole Richie and of course the newly married Kate Moss love vintage clothing and accessories and spend an absolute fortune on designer vintage purely for its uniqueness. Unfortunately in Fermanagh as yet we don't have any vintage boutiques, however we do have some really great charity shops which I have purchased many brilliant finds that I am really pleased with.

As well as true vintage clothing there was also a section of previously loved items and all items were in excellent condition.

There is a great need to encourage recycling and swapping of unused clothing as so many high street chains sell collections at such low prices that we have become a nation of 'throw away fashion', which means that we don't concern ourselves as much with only wearing a piece of clothing once or twice and then throwing it out because it didn't cost us much.

This 'Open Wardrobe, a la mode' section of the fair was an excellent

idea for those looking to update their wardrobe with new or nearly new pieces, while doing a bit for the environment and also saving some money.

Many people don't like the idea of 'previously loved' clothing and vintage clothing because they think of it as grubby cast offs and perhaps they don't like the thought of looking through rusty rails in cluttered charity shops, however this is often not the case.

Many charity shops are very well laid out with lots of great merchandising to help and inspire you into putting more creative outfits together. I often think that it's much more fun to pick things out and create your own unique outfits, whereas on the high street everything is put together in little sections for you so it's almost as if the high street is dictating what you should be wearing.

If pottering around a fusty old vintage shop is not for you but you still want to get yourself some original pieces a vintage fair is definitely a more suitable option.

Prior to the new Oma Fair Lady I would have attended the 'Frock Around the Clock' vintage fair in Belfast, which is held around four times a year and they also have lovely Christmas fairs to give you really great ideas for unique presents and traditional old fashioned décor for

Model: Una Pritchard  
Outfits: Gladrag and Handbags, Bedlam, Derry  
Photography: Jude Browne



Model: Seoirse Conway  
Outfit: Designed and created by Aisling's Textile Studio, Carrickmore  
Photography: Jude Browne



Model: Clíodhna McCallan  
Outfit: Oma Fair Lady  
Photography: Jude Browne



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