

Hospice's new shop will offer vintage and retro fashions



Fiona Eaton, Jemma Mindham and Jason Shaves inside Scarlet Vintage and Retro

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A NEW vintage retro charity shop offering eco-friendly fashion will open this weekend.

St Clare Hospice will celebrate the opening of its shop Scarlet Vintage and Retro on Saturday (October 20) with Harlow MP Robert Halfon cutting the ribbon.

The shop, situated in the town centre's Broadwalk, is home to a hand-picked selection of quirky and contemporary clothing and accessories dating back to the 90s and earlier.

There is also a selection of collectables, homeware and a range of premium brand new items on offer, making the store a treasure trove for local fashionistas.

Fiona Eaton, head of retail, said: "We are delighted that our brand new vintage shop is ready to launch in Harlow.

"Scarlet Vintage and Retro will make such a great addition to the town's shopping centre championing individual style and creativity for everyone who loves fashion.

"Vintage shops are revolutionising the way we feel about shopping, creating an outlet for sustainable and eco-friendly fashion.

"It's a completely new direction for charity shops, incorporating the highly esteemed vintage and retro market which is becoming more popular all the time.

"Charity store shopping empowers people to embrace their own individual styles, in a wholly ethical and sustainable way."

St Clare has collaborated with Harlow's Rainbow Services in a furniture upcycling project to renew and restore donated homeware



The opening of St Clare's new shop will be celebrated on Saturday

to sell in aid of each organisation.

A collection of donated, upcycled and restored range of homeware will launch within the hospice shop.

The newly-formed partnership operates with the vital assistance of The Workshop at Rainbow Services, a community engagement programme that offers placements for Essex Community Rehabilitation Service users to undertake their allocated community service hours.

The scheme will also offer mentoring and positive activities to vulnerable young people at risk of making negative life choices.

The Workshop receives donated furniture and homeware items from St Clare Hospice and then manually restore them using their carpentry and DIY skills.

St Clare then donates 20 per cent of sales profits to

Rainbow Services after an item is purchased from Scarlet Vintage and Retro.

Jemma Mindham, chief executive officer at Rainbow Services, said: "Rainbow Services is really excited by this new partnership with St Clare Hospice, upcycling donated furniture to be sold on to raise money for the charity.

"This takes our Recycling Workshop, which is how our charity launched nearly 21 years ago, to a new level for all of our service-users, ensuring not only that they are able to learn and apply new skills in a practical way but that they are giving to a worthy community cause at the same time.

"The first few items, which have been completed, have shown the service-users and our staff and volunteers just what they are capable of, and have raised levels of self-esteem and team spirit.

"Everyone is raring to go and ready for more."

St Clare Scarlet Vintage and Retro, situated at 3 Broadwalk, Harlow, CM20 1HX, will officially open at 10am on Saturday. There will be drinks and nibbles available.

“Vintage shops are... creating an outlet for sustainable and eco-friendly fashion
Fiona Eaton, head of retail

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