

Mary Fleming was on holiday in Kenya when she saw it: a mound of secondhand clothes heaped by a river, the pile so vast and unruly it was spilling into the water.

2. The sight shocked her. At home in Ireland she was a passionate shopper and bought a new outfit almost every weekend. Now in east Africa she was seeing the consequence of fast fashion and mass consumption.

3. A decade later Fleming, now 34, is leading a campaign to prevent waste by swapping, reusing, repairing and repurposing clothes under the inimitable exhortation: "Because secondhand is feckin' grand".

4. She is the founder of Change Clothes, a non-profit that hosts a swap shop in Dublin and runs pop-up outlets and workshops across Ireland. It lets people rent, exchange and buy used clothes and gives tutorials in mending and upcycling frayed garments. "Most people wouldn't know how to patch a hole. Once they figure it out they're delighted with themselves," says Fleming. "It's so simple it's criminal that it's not better known."

5. Change Clothes outgrew its base in Crumlin, west Dublin, and this month moved to new premises in the city centre. "So many people were coming, we just needed more space," says

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Fleming, who was still unpacking and sorting shoes and fabrics at the Thomas Street hub. The non-profit also runs night markets and workshops in making Halloween costumes, Christmas baubles and wreaths.

6. "This has grown really quickly so who knows where we will be in a few years. There is an appetite for change, an opportunity for change." Fleming points to rolls of brightly coloured textiles stacked in a corner. "An underground network of textile freaks alerted me to a dump that had brand new rolls of fabric – it was heading for a landfill."

7. Change Clothes is a mecca for the converted but Fleming's goal is to reach people who bin old or unwanted clothes and trek to Zara, Next or Gap and other outlets to replenish their wardrobe. "In some communities there is still a stigma about secondhand clothes and not wanting to be seen to be poor. We're trying to change perceptions. There is a lot of >>>

to unpack to take objects out of a box/bag / **to sort** to organise / **fabric** material, textile / **hub** main centre / **bauble** decorative object for a Christmas tree / **wreath** decorative circle of flowers.

6. grown to develop, to become bigger / **to point to** to indicate with one's finger / **brightly** vividly / **to stack** to pile / **underground** secret, clandestine / **network** organisation of people / **freak** here, fanatic / **dump** large pile of rubbish / **brand new** completely new, never used / **to head for** to go in the direction of / **landfill** large hole in the ground where waste is deposited.

7. goal objective / **to reach** here, to successfully have an effect on, to influence / **to bin** to throw away / **to trek** to walk (a long way), here, to go / **outlet** shop / **to replenish** to restock, to refill / **wardrobe** cupboard/closet where clothes are kept / **stigma** symbol of disgrace/humiliation /

SUR LE BOUT DE LA LANGUE

The changing face of the British high street.

Les '**charity shops**' remplacent les magasins traditionnels dans bon nombre de villes en Angleterre. C'est là que l'on peut trouver des **second-hand clothes** (§1) (vêtements d'occasion) que l'on appelle aussi **pre-loved clothes** ou **vintage clothes**.

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1. mound large pile / **to heap** to put into a large pile / **unruly** disordered, out of control / **to spill into** here, to fall into (like a liquid).

2. sight vision / **outfit** ensemble of clothes / **fast fashion** constant mass production and marketing of new styles which are sold at a low price to incite people to constantly buy new clothes.

3. decade period of ten years / **to lead** to be at the head of, to be in charge of / **to prevent** to stop / **to swap** to exchange / **to repurpose** to reuse, to convert for another use / **feckin'** = fecking Irish alternative to the expletive « fucking » which is less offensive, very.

4. founder person who creates an organisation / **non-profit** organisation not aimed at making money / **to host** to organise / **to run** to manage / **pop-up** temporary / **outlet** shop / **across** everywhere in / **to let** to allow, to permit / **to rent** to hire, to pay for the use of sth temporarily / **to mend** to repair / **to upcycle** to make sth new using old and used things / **frayed** used and worn at the edges / **garment** article of clothing / **to patch** to repair, to sew / **to figure sth out** to understand how to do sth / **delighted** very happy.

5. to outgrow (grew, grown) to become too big for sth / **to move** to transfer / **premises** site /



The team organizes workshops throughout Ireland to teach people how to repair or repurpose clothes. (Facebook)



Mary Fleming wants to offer an alternative to fast fashion and change perception about second-hand clothes. (Facebook)

>>> work to be done." Enticing people into a swapshop can be a "great gateway drug" that introduces them to wider possibilities of reusing and repairing garments, she says.

8. Fleming and her team of two part-time staff and a dozen or so volunteers have three categories: clothes in very good condition, clothes that "need help" and clothes at the end of their life. For a €5 (£4.20) fee people with garments in the first category can book a 30-minute slot at Change Clothes, obtain tokens for their donations – the better the condition or brand, the more tokens – and then use the tokens to select items from the shop's racks.

A community-oriented initiative

9. Alternatively you can rent an item, which must be returned clean, for about €10 per week. Last year, Fleming added her wedding dress, a sequin gown, to the rental racks. She had bought it online, her first such purchase in years, after her first choice, a secondhand dress, did not fit properly. Surplus clothing in good condition is donated to refugee centres and assisted living accommodation.

to entice to attract / **gateway drug** soft drug which leads to the use of more dangerous substances (**gateway** entrance) / **wide** broad, large, vast.

8. dozen = 12 / **fee** amount of money / **to book** to reserve / **slot** time (in a schedule) / **token** coupon / **to select** to choose / **rack** place where articles are presented in a shop.

9. to rent to hire, to pay for the use of sth temporarily / **to add** here, to include / **wedding** marriage / **sequin** small shiny decoration on clothes / **gown** long formal dress / **purchase** act of buying sth / **properly** correctly / **surplus** excessive, superfluous / **to donate** to give / **accommodation** housing.

10. Fleming's team crisscrosses Ireland visiting university campuses, libraries and community centres to give lessons in repairing or repurposing damaged or worn clothes. People's eyes light up when they discover they can do basic tailoring, she says. "It can be incredibly creative and mindful. You're not on your phone or laptop." Garments beyond rescue are chopped and cut and turned into something else such as banners or placemats.

10. to crisscross to travel all over / **library** place where books are kept for public reference / **community centre** public place which organises group events, activities and classes for the local community / **damaged** in bad condition / **worn** used, old / **to light up** to become excited, to shine / **tailoring** making and adjusting clothes / **mindful** actively involving a person in the present moment (physically/mentally) / **laptop** portable computer / **beyond** past the limits of / **rescue** act of saving sth / **to chop** to cut into small pieces / **to turn into** to transform into / **banner** long piece of material, long flag / **placemat** rectangle of material on the table for putting a plate on.

Testez-vous

Avez-vous bien compris l'article ? Cochez la bonne réponse.

1. When was Mary Fleming in Kenya?

- a. 5 years ago
- b. 10 years ago
- c. 15 years ago

2. Which word in the article means to 'exchange'?

- a. to spill
- b. to swap
- c. to sort

3. Where were the rolls of fabric Mary salvaged supposed to go?

- a. to the local market
- b. to a shop in Dublin
- c. to landfill

4. How much does it cost to hire a dress from Mary's shop?

- a. about £10
- b. about £20
- c. about £50

SOLUTIONS : 1. b ; 2. b ; 3. c ; 4. a