

THE PRACTICE OF MENDING,
CARING-THROUGH-USE:
A STRATEGY FOR CLOTHING
LONGEVITY

Emily Towers

APPENDIX

Centre for Sustainability, London College of Fashion

University of the Arts London.

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CHAPTER 8

APPENDIX

Ethics Forms

Longitudinal Mending Study

Mending Survey

Macclesfield Repair Day & Restart and Repair Mending Workshop

Historical Primary Research

8 Appendix

8.1 Ethics Forms

8.1.1 Longitudinal Mending Study

8.1.1.1 Call For Volunteers

Call for volunteers.
An exploration into the craft of mending.

We are looking for women who are: ideally between 25 and 45, who would like to take part in a fun project and have the chance to learn some new skills. Who do not mend their own clothes, and who don't have much sewing experience to take part in a study on mending clothing.

What is the purpose of the study?
The purpose of the study is to observe how you mend garments, to find out what happens when you are taught new mending skills and whether or not you then use your new skills in everyday life.

What will happen to me if I take part? What will I have to do?

- o The research study is going to take place over a period of around six months.
- o You will be required to take part in various mending workshops over this period, minimum of three. Involving hand sewing and using a sewing machine. In each workshop you will need to bring your own garments that you would like to mend, all other materials will be provided.
- o Each mending workshop will be over a period of approximately three hours, (tea/ coffee and cakes will be provided).
- o You will be asked to fill out a diary and asked to take photos at home on a daily basis.
- o The researcher will need to meet you approximately once a month for up to an hour to interview you, ideally within your home. This will be audio-taped, the conversation written up and then will be shown to you for your approval as to whether the information can be used within the research.
- o Photographs may be taken in either the workshop or the meeting at your home. If any of these images could possibly identify you, then the researcher will ask for further approval to use the image.

How do I take part?
If you are interested in taking part, please either fill out the form provided and post it back in the stamped addressed envelope attached or email us using the following address: e.towers1@arts.ac.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contacts:
Emily Towers/ Kate Fletcher
Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion, 20 John Prince's Street, London W1S 0BU

T: +44 (0) 20 7514 7497
E: sustaemobility@fashion.arts.ac.uk

Research Management and Administration:
University of the Arts London, 5th Floor, Granary Building,
1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4AA

T: +44 (0) 20 7514 9389
E: research@rma.arts.ac.uk

I am interested in taking part in the following study:
An exploration into the craft of mending.

First Name: _____
Surname: _____

Telephone: _____
Mobile: _____
Landline: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I am happy to be contacted via:
Please tick which methods you are happy for us to contact you on below.

☐ Email ☐ mobile phone ☐ Landline phone ☐ Text message ☐ Post

When would you prefer to be contacted? Please tick the relevant boxes below.

☐ anytime ☐ weekdays ☐ evenings ☐ weekends

When would you prefer the workshop sessions to take place? Please tick the relevant boxes below.

☐ anytime
☐ weekday mornings
☐ weekday afternoons
☐ weekday evenings
☐ weekends

How much sewing experience do you have?

☐ none
☐ a little, I can sew on a button
☐ some, I have basic sewing skills
☐ I am happy to follow simple patterns to sew and alter garments
☐ loads, I can follow/ create complex patterns and can make difficult alterations.

Which of the following age groups do you fall into? Please tick the relevant answer below.

☐ under 25 ☐ 25-29 ☐ 30-34 ☐ 35-39 ☐ 40-45 ☐ 46 and over

8.1.1.2 Ethics Form

**Participant Information Sheet.****An exploration into the craft of mending.**

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read this information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Make sure you ask if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to observe how you mend garments, to find out what happens when you are taught new mending skills and whether or not you then use your new skills in everyday life.

Why have I been invited?

You have been chosen because you have replied to the researchers advertisement, because you do not mend your clothes, and you do not have much sewing experience.

There will be seven other women taking part in this study, and at some points you will be invited to meet up as a group in a workshop environment.

Do I have to take part?

No, It is up to you to decide whether to join the research. We will describe the study and go through this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part? What will I have to do?

- The research study is going to take place over a period of six months.
- You will be required to take part in various mending workshops over this period, minimum of three. Involving hand sewing and using a sewing machine. In each workshop you will need to bring your own garments that you would like to mend, all other materials will be provided.
- Each mending workshop will be over a period of approximately three hours, (tea/ coffee and cakes will be provided).
- You will be asked to fill out a diary and asked to take photos at home on a daily basis.
- The researcher will need to meet you approximately once a month for up to an hour to interview you, ideally within your home. This will be audio-taped, the conversation written up and then will be shown to you for your approval as to whether the information can be used within the research.
- Photographs may be taken in either the workshop or the meeting at your home. If any of these images could possibly identify you, then the researcher will ask for further approval to use the image.

Who is organising and funding the research? Who has reviewed the study?

The University of the Arts London, London College of Fashion and The Centre for Sustainability.

If you would like any further information on the University's procedures for research ethics scrutiny and approval please go to the following link and download the Code of Practice on Research Ethics: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/research-ethics/>

A duplicate copy of the signed consent form and information sheet will be given you to keep for your own record.

Contacts:

Kate Fletcher/ Emily Towers
Centre for Sustainable Fashion,
London College of Fashion, 20 John Princes Street, London W1G 0BJ
T: +44 (0) 20 7514 7497
E: sustainability@fashion.arts.ac.uk

Research Management and Administration.
University of the Arts London, 5th Floor, Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4AA

T: + 44 (0) 20 7514 9389,
E: researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk

E. TOWERS

LCF

VERSION 2

31 January 2013



Participant Consent Form.

An exploration into the craft of mending.

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the attached information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Make sure you ask if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

I understand that I have given my consent for the following to take place...

- My points of view (in reference to the project) will be discussed and documented within this project and will be used to inform the researchers own work,
- To complete a daily diary,
- To be interviewed,
- To take part in and be observed during mending workshops,
- To have photographs taken.

I understand and have had explained to me the appropriate health and safety procedures for my part in this research.

I understand and have had explained to me any risks associated with this activity.

I understand that I have given approval for my image, opinions and clothing habits to be published anonymously in the final outcome of this project and may be used in future outcomes.

I understand that my involvement in this study, and particular data from this research, will remain strictly confidential.

I understand that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed for information that I might disclose in group workshops.

I have read the information sheet about the research project, which I have been asked to take part in and have been given a copy of this sheet to keep.

Having given this consent I understand that I have the right to withdraw from this study at any point without disadvantage to myself and without having to give any reason. However I am aware that any information already collected, (before my withdrawal) may be used by the researcher.

I hereby fully and freely consent to participation within this study, which has been fully explained to me.

E. TOWERS

LCF

VERSION 2

31 January 2013

* *
 University of the
 Arts London * *
 *



Centre for
Sustainable Fashion
London College
of Fashion

Signatures

Participant's name
(BLOCK CAPITALS):

Participant's signature:

Date:

Contact details:

Address:
(BLOCK CAPITALS):

*Telephone
number:*

Email address:

*Principal
investigator's name*
(BLOCK CAPITALS):

*Principal
investigator's signature:*

Date:

Contacts:

Kate Fletcher/ Emily Towers
Centre for Sustainable Fashion,
London College of Fashion, 20 John Princes Street, London W1G 0BJ
T: +44 (0) 20 7514 7497
E: sustainability@fashion.arts.ac.uk

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University of the Arts London, 5th Floor, Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4AA

T: + 44 (0) 20 7514 9389,
E: researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk

A duplicate copy of the signed consent form will be given to the participant to keep for her own record.

8.1.2 Macclesfield mending day



Participant Information Sheet. Macclesfield restart and repair party:

An exploration into the craft of mending.

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read this information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Make sure you ask if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to observe how you mend garments, to find about your relationship with clothes and mending in everyday life.

Do I have to take part?

No, It is up to you to decide whether to join the research. If you agree to take part, join in with the workshop and we will understand this to be your consent. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason.

What will happen to me if I take part? What will I have to do?

- You will be required to take part in the mending workshop Involving needle felting. Materials will be provided.
- You will be asked questions during the workshop and may be encouraged to write your responses down.
- The workshop is being audio-taped, videoed (in low resolution), and the conversation written up.
- Photographs may be taken in the workshop. If any of these images could possibly identify you, then the researcher will ask verbally approval to use the image.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Any disadvantages and risks will hopefully be minimal, the minor risks will mainly be through the use of a needle but these risks will be minimised by the researchers providing training.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

It will hopefully be a fun project; a way to learn new skills and you will have an option to access the results if you are interested.

What happens when the research ends? Any personal information will be destroyed.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any problems please contact the researchers, our contact details are on the bottom of the sheet. We will then make sure that any issues are dealt with quickly. If you would like to make a formal complaint please also contact the research support office; details are on the bottom of the sheet.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Your confidentiality will be safeguarded during and after the study in all other aspects. Any personal data collected will be stored securely, will be anonymised and coded so that information collected for the study will remain confidential. Only the researcher will have access to identifiable data. The identifiable personal data and the key code will be destroyed when the research is finished. The procedures for handling, processing, storage and destruction of your data match the University of the Arts code of legislation for Research Ethics.

The anonymised data collected will be analysed and used within the researchers PHD and possibly future work. The anonymised data will be available to you if you would like to see the results. You also have the right to check the accuracy of the data held and correct any errors.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results will be published in the final outcome of this project and may be used in future publications. The results will be made available to you and you will be able to access them on: (website to be finalised). You will not be identified in any report or publication unless your consent has been given.

Who is organising and funding the research? Who has reviewed the study?

The University of the Arts London, London College of Fashion and The Centre for Sustainability.

If you would like any further information on the University's procedures for research ethics scrutiny and approval please go to the following link and download the Code of Practice on Research Ethics: <http://www.arts.ac.uk/research-ethics/>

Contacts:

Kate Fletcher/ Emily Towers
Centre for Sustainable Fashion,
London College of Fashion, 20 John Princes Street, London W1G 0BJ
T: +44 (0) 20 7514 7497
E: sustainability@fashion.arts.ac.uk
e.towers1@arts.ac.uk

Research Management and Administration,
University of the Arts London, 5th Floor, Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4AA
T: + 44 (0) 20 7514 9389,
E: research@arts.ac.uk



Macclesfield restart and repair party: Consent Form.



An exploration into the craft of mending.

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the attached information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Make sure you ask if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

I understand that I have given my consent for the following to take place...

- To complete a questionnaire,
- To take part in a recorded discussion during the workshop,
- To have photographs taken.

I understand that I have given approval for my image, opinions upon mending and clothing habits to be published in the final outcome of this project and may be used in future outcomes.

I understand that my involvement in this study, and particular data from this research, will remain strictly confidential.

I hereby fully and freely consent to participation within this study, which has been fully explained to me.

Signatures

Participant's name
(BLOCK CAPITALS): _____

Participant's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Email address: _____

Principal investigator's name
(BLOCK CAPITALS): _____

Principal investigator's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Contacts:

Kate Fletcher/ Emily Towers
Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion, 20 John Princes Street, London W1G 0BJ
T: +44 (0) 20 7514 7497 E: sustainability@fashion.arts.ac.uk

Research Management and Administration.
University of the Arts London, 5th Floor, Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4AA
T: + 44 (0) 20 7514 9389, E: researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk



The Goodlife Centre. Repair café: Consent Form.



An exploration into the craft of mending.

You are being invited to take part in a research project. Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the attached information sheet carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Make sure you ask if anything is unclear or if you would like more information.

I understand that I have given my consent for the following to take place...

- To complete a questionnaire or to be interviewed,
- To take part in a recorded discussion during the workshop,
- To have photographs taken.

I understand that I have given approval for my image, opinions upon mending and clothing habits to be published in the final outcome of this project and may be used in future outcomes.

I understand that my involvement in this study, and particular data from this research, will remain strictly confidential.

I hereby fully and freely consent to participation within this study, which has been fully explained to me.

Signatures

Participant's name
(BLOCK CAPITALS): _____

Participant's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Email address: _____

Principal investigator's name
(BLOCK CAPITALS): _____

Principal investigator's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Contacts:

Kate Fletcher/ Emily Towers
Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion, 20 John Princes Street, London W1G 0BJ
T: +44 (0) 20 7514 7497 E: sustainability@fashion.arts.ac.uk

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T: + 44 (0) 20 7514 9389, E: researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk

8.1.4 Mending Survey**Mending clothes survey.****You are invited to take part in a research project.**

Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read this information carefully.

What is the purpose of the survey?

The purpose of the study is to discover your mending habits. The everyday practices and skills surrounding the repair and renewal of our clothing.

What will the survey involve?

The survey will involve a series of questions about mending. These are set up mainly in multiple choice, slider scale and rating scale questions.

How long will it take?

The survey should take approximately twenty minutes to complete.

Do I have to take part?

No, It is up to you to decide whether to join the research. By completing the survey you are agreeing to take part.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes the data collected from this survey will be treated anonymously, and your involvement in this study will remain strictly confidential. Your anonymised opinions upon mending and clothing habits will be published in the final outcome of this project and may be used in future outcomes.

Contacts:

Research Management and Administration.

University of the Arts London, 5th Floor, Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4AA

Email: researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk



Mending clothes survey.

You are invited to take part in a research project.

Before you decide to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read this information carefully.

What is the purpose of the survey?

The purpose of the study is to discover your mending habits. The everyday practices and skills surrounding the repair and renewal of our clothing.

How long will it take?

The survey should take approximately twenty minutes to complete.

What will the survey involve?

The online survey will involve a series of questions about mending. These are set up mainly in multiple choice, slider scale and rating scale questions.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes the data collected from this survey will be treated anonymously, and your involvement in this study will remain strictly confidential.



If you would like to take part in the online survey?

Please either use the QR code to take you directly to the survey, otherwise type in the website address below:

https://qlite.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5BwO5V36ECwgndP

Thank you so much for your time!

Contacts:

If you have any problems please contact: Emily Towers, email: e.towers1@arts.ac.uk

Research Management and Administration, University of the Arts London, 5th Floor, Granary Building, 1 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, N1C 4AA Email: researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk

8.1.4.1 Risk Assessment



General Risk Assessment Form

Id. Code: ...002.....

College / Pro-Vice Chancellery	London College of Fashion	School / Dept.	Centre for Sustainable Fashion
Name(s) of Assessor(s)	Emily Towers	Location	Interviewees homes + craft group venues.
Date of Assessment	06/01/14	Review Date	06/06/15
Risk Assessment of	PHD research, working title: Creating enduring narratives with our clothes through the process of mending and its affect on the domestic consumption of fashion products.		

1. Description of task / activity / area

- Interviews at the interviewee's (predominantly women ages between 20-50) home, place of work, place where they feel comfortable e.g. coffee shop.
- Sewing Workshops with up to 8 women (ages between 25-45) in a room at Holborn, Here Today Here Tomorrow, or another relevant venue with the required facilities including drop in workshops within a restart and repair party.
- Use of needles, scissors, sewing machines (domestic/ and or industrial).

2. Identification of hazards and risks

Identification of hazards and risks	Risk rating (with existing control measures)
1 Traveling to and from the interview, going to the interviewee's home unaccompanied.	LOW
2 Working with and teaching volunteers to use possibly hazardous equipment.	LOW
3	
4	
5	

3. Existing Control Measures

1 Interviews: to inform the university/ my family of the proposed interview including the time, date, address, contact details and expected length of visit. To confirm safe return with the university once returned.						
2 Volunteers are not to use any equipment until they have been fully trained in how to use the equipment safely and confidently.						
3 To explain all health and safety information to participants before a workshop begins						
4 The participants within the workshop will preform their activities under trained supervision.						
5						
Are the control measures adequate?			Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	

	Multiple deaths or over £1,000,000 in damage	Single death or over £100,000 in damage	Major injury or over £10,000	Lost time or over £1000	Minor injury or over £1000	Delay
Certain	Very High	Very High	High	High	High	High
Very likely	Very High	Very High	High	High	High	Medium
Likely	Very High	High	High	High	High	Medium
May happen	High	High	High	High	Low	Low
Unlikely	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Very unlikely	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

Identification of hazards and risks	Risk rating (with existing control measures)
1 Traveling to and from the interview, going to the interviewee's home unaccompanied.	LOW
2 Working with and teaching volunteers to use possibly hazardous equipment.	LOW
3	
4	
5	

3. Existing Control Measures

1 Interviews: to inform the university/ my family of the proposed interview including the time, date, address, contact details and expected length of visit. To confirm safe return with the university once returned.						
2 Volunteers are not to use any equipment until they have been fully trained in how to use the equipment safely and confidently.						
3 To explain all health and safety information to participants before a workshop begins						
4 The participants within the workshop will preform their activities under trained supervision.						
5						
Are the control measures adequate?			Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	

	Multiple deaths or over £1,000,000 in damage	Single death or over £100,000 in damage	Major injury or over £10,000	Lost time or over £1000	Minor injury or over £1000	Delay
Certain	Very High	Very High	High	High	High	High
Very likely	Very High	Very High	High	High	High	Medium
Likely	Very High	High	High	High	High	Medium
May happen	High	High	High	High	Low	Low
Unlikely	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Very unlikely	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

4. Additional Control Measures Required

1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
Will additional control measures reduce the risk to an acceptable level?	Yes		No	

5. Actions

Action	Person responsible	Acknowledged	Time scale	Date completed
Has a safe system of work been completed?	Yes		No	
			Not required	

Risk assessment **completed** by.....Emily Towers.....(print name)..........(signature).....06/01/14...(Date)

Risk assessment **accepted** by (Manager).....(print name).....(signature).....(Date)

Matrix Table explained

	Multiple deaths or over £1,000,000 in damage	Single death or over £100,000 in damage	Major injury or over £10,000	Lost time or over £1000	Minor injury or over £1000	Delay
Certain	Very High	Very High	High	High	High	High
Very likely	Very High	Very High	High	High	High	Medium
Likely	Very High	High	High	High	High	Medium
May happen	High	High	High	High	Low	Low
Unlikely	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Very unlikely	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

Action prioritisation table following a risk assessment (taken from Croner's risk assessment):

Risk Level	Action and timescale
Low	No further preventive action is necessary, but consideration should be given to more cost-effective solutions, or improvements that impose no additional cost burden. Monitoring is required to ensure that controls are maintained.
Medium	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk, but the cost of prevention should be carefully measured and limited. Risk reduction measures should normally be implemented within three to six months, depending on the number of people exposed to the hazard.
High	Work should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves critical work in progress, the problem should normally be remedied as soon as reasonably practicable but within one to three months, depending on the number of people exposed to the hazard.
Very high	Work should not be started or continued until the risk level has been reduced. While the control measure selected should be cost-effective, legally there is an absolute duty to reduce the risk. This means that if it is not possible to reduce the risk even with unlimited resources, then the work must not begin or must remain prohibited.

8.2 Longitudinal Mending Study

8.2.1 Study Diary

The hunt for volunteers for my study on mending and behaviour change.

I managed to finally make some progress after emailing various social groups around the Islington area:

Highbury Timebank and the transition Finsbury park ecological centre. Finsbury park community hub.

The local Women's Institutes.

And I have been given the opportunity to have a 5 minute slot at the beginning of a WI session to try and source some volunteers.

I arrived at the Islington WI meeting and spent a few minutes when it was my turn talking about what the project was, and what it would entail. Unfortunately however I only got two interested people, one of whom is under my age target so I have had to put her on the waiting list.

From this I realised that I needed to find other avenues to source volunteers. I therefore dropped off some 'volunteer's wanted posters' at the local library (Finsbury Park and a community centre in Angel as well).

Again I realised that this would not be enough so I decided to use a tactic that Daniel Miller used in one of his studies (2008, *The Comfort of Things*) based in London. He used a randomly sourced street in London and interviewed each of the residents that were open to taking part. I decided to take this method as a starting point, using streets within my local borough of Islington. The idea is to be able to use this as a method of triangulating the study. Ideally having 3x workshop groups from the 3x different streets (Figure 1). Although the streets were going to be randomly picked I needed to have some criteria for them these were:

- The streets needed to be near a community centre that I could possibly use as a location to preform the workshops.
- The streets were to be predominantly Victorian properties, which are typical to most towns and cities throughout the UK. As these buildings are often divided into flats the streets should hold a variety of social and economic backgrounds (due to London being culturally diverse) but because they are either privately owned or rented the volunteers will be likely to have a source of household income (so not council owned).
- To be within my local borough of Islington. For practical purposes.
- For the streets not to be too large so as to make it difficult to perform the letter drop.
- And for the streets to be predominantly residential.

From this list of criteria I decided on the following community centres and the

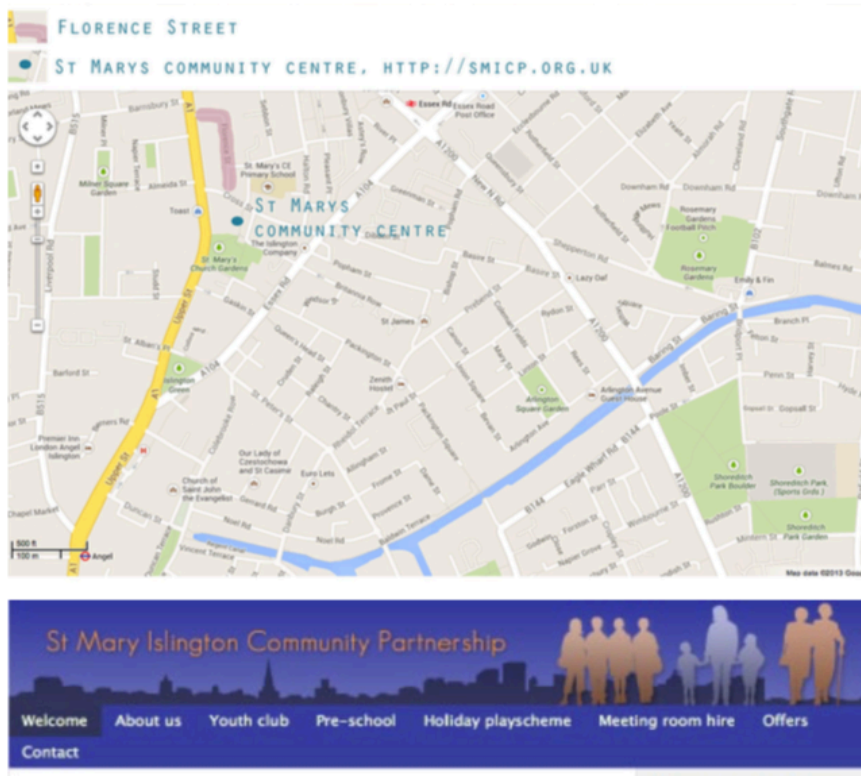
subsequent streets. St Marys community centre: <http://smicp.org.uk>

Caxton house community centre: <http://www.caxtonhouse.org>

Highbury roundhouse community centre: <http://www.highbury-roundhouse.org.uk>

FLORENCE STREET, WHICH IS IN ANGEL AND IS CLOSE TO THE ST MARYS COMMUNITY CENTRE.

I then amended my volunteer form and started making my letter drop packs. I decided that to try and to encourage people to volunteer I would need a small incentive therefor I decided to include a stamped addressed envelope. This would also to



DRESDEN ROAD, WHICH IS NEAR ARCHWAY AND IS CLOSE TO THE CAXTON HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

STAVORDALE ROAD, WHICH IS NEAR DRAYTON PARK OVERGROUND AND IS CLOSE TO THE Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre.

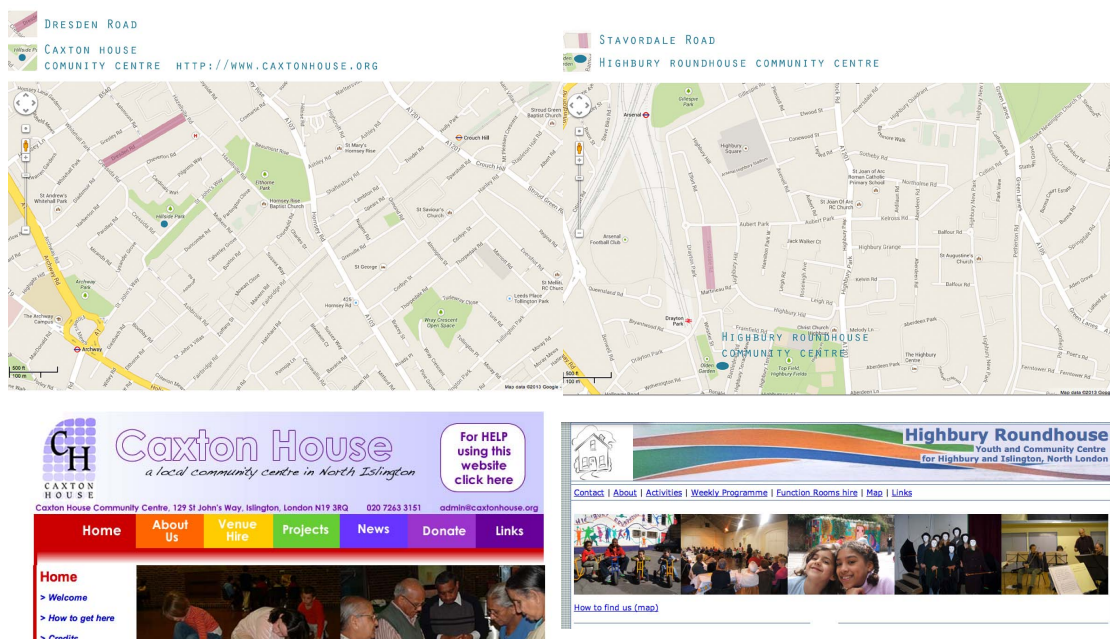


Figure 1. Details of the three streets selected to source volunteers.

Call for volunteers



To prevent any bias to people who have no access to the Internet and are not computer literate self addressed pre-stamped envelopes were added (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Sending out a call for volunteers.

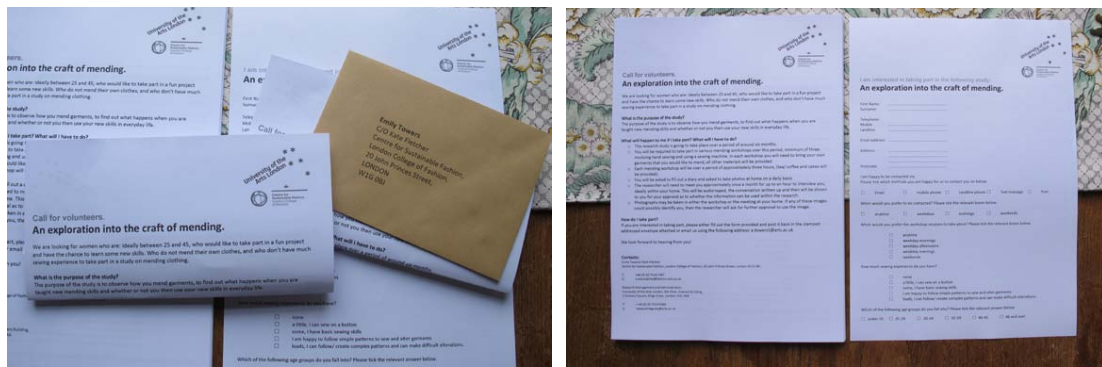


Figure 3. Preparing the call for volunteers letter drop.

Once I had approximately 300 packs ready I set off and posted the letter drops through the doors of the flats/ houses in the streets (Figure 3). A total of 293 letters were posted through the letter boxes and I have received two replies via email so far (approximately. 2 weeks since I dropped the letters off). I am waiting to hear from David Green for when he has received a few letters (the letters were sent care of David).

This brings my total of volunteers up to 6 (with a 7th on the waiting list as she is under 25).

What was interesting about the streets were the proportion of houses to flats (Figure 4). Dresden road had the highest proportion of houses on the street, with 79% of the buildings being a house rather than split into flats (Figure 7). This could be because on the whole the houses were only 2 to three stories and often they were only split into flats when there was a lower ground floor, so that both the flat could have their own entrances. This street also gave an impression of wealth as the buildings were predominantly well cared for and a lot of renovation was continuing to be done with one of the houses being completely renovated so that I couldn't put anything through the door. The road also had an off-licence on one end and a dry cleaners on the other.

Florence road near Angel also had a large proportion of houses: 50% (Figure 5). This again was a wealthy street but with large houses of 4 stories. The street also had the back of a fire station a petrol station and a pub on the street.

Then Stavordale road again had large houses of 3 to 4 stories depending on whether the roofs had been converted into living space, with a proportion of only 35% as whole houses. It also had a larger proportion of 3 flats per building (Figure 6).

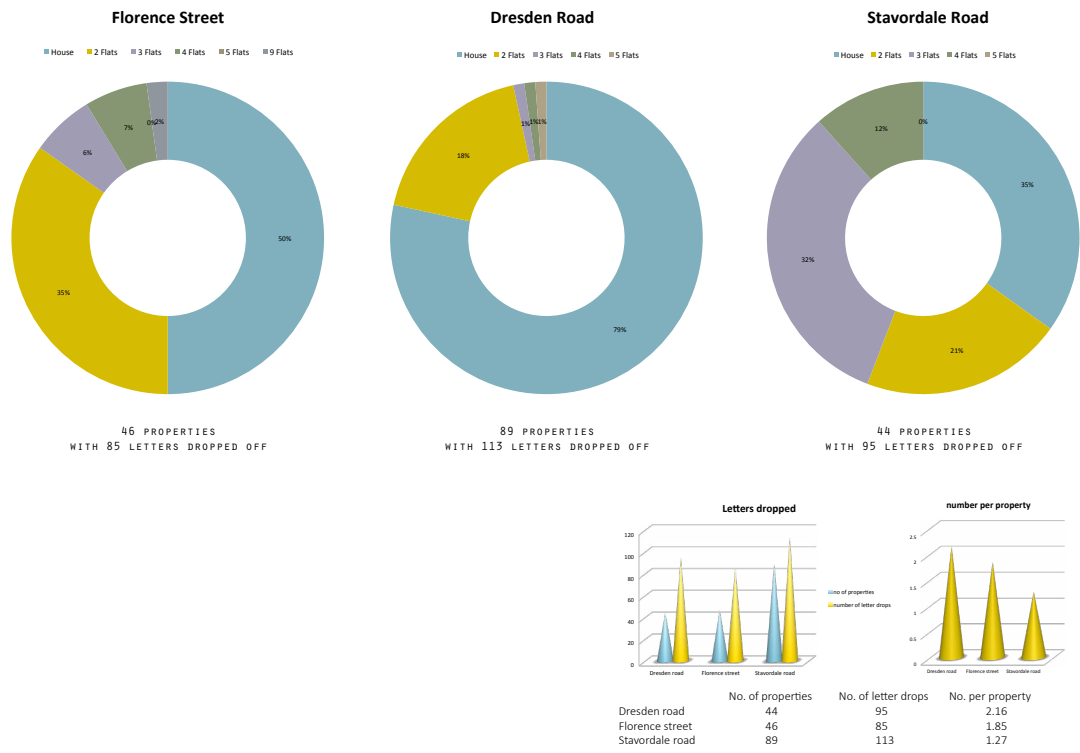


Figure 4. Types of properties on each street.



Figure 5. Details and images of Florence Street.

Stavordale road
nearest tube: Drayton park



Figure 6. Details and images of Stavordale Road.

Dresden road
nearest tube: Archway



Figure 7. Details and images of Dresden Road.

Volunteers that came forward:-

Of the 293 letters posted out to the homes in the three streets I had a total of 11 interested participants.

Of these participants, three were from Dresden road, two were from Florence Street and one was from Stavordale road. The remaining five were from either friends of the volunteers or from my presentation at the Angel Women's Institute meeting or interested from having an email passed along from transitions (a social enterprise).

From these 11 people I asked them if I could initially interview them at their homes. From this I managed to get 7 interviews lined up. With the remaining volunteers I chased them briefly but had no luck. I need to have people that are excited about taking part so that both sides can get the most out of this.

At this point I needed to test out my interview questions so did a pilot interview with volunteer 1; A lady who lives in angel and is an account manager for TV. I found designing the interview a difficult process as the aim was to understand their clothing habits and ideally I would have loved to spend a morning with them going through each garment in their wardrobe and asking them about it. But I realised that this would be impossible. Firstly I would be asking for too much of their valuable time and secondly the process of going through your clothes with a stranger in such intimate surroundings could be very difficult. I therefore decided that I would ask questions about their shopping habits and how long they keep garments. Then I would go into looking at specific garments that I would already ask them to go through their clothing beforehand, such as 3x of your newest clothes. Which I would photograph, ask specific questions about them and then try and find out the narrative between the volunteer and the garment.

3 Dec 13 Update.

Overall I have found that everything takes a lot longer than expected and I do not feel that I have managed to progress as much as I hoped in the last 2 ½ weeks.

WORKSHOPS:

Of the 7 volunteers, I have been able to only get 5 of them to find a common time when they are available;

Wednesday evenings with x 3 of them. (this has been reduced to 2 after an email this morning).
At here today here tomorrow, for the first 2x sessions before Christmas

Sunday afternoons with x2.

Venue to be finalised, either college or my home? – as most shops are open on Sundays and to hire a venue would be £90.

KIRSI LAITALA AND JADE SMITH.

Jade suggested that I should get hold of their bank statements, or to get some quantifiable data to be able to get a true reading of how much they consume.

Krisi, has done a study with 16 families and has got them to keep a record of purchases and discards over 6 months but she has not had chance to analyze the data or to publish it yet. On average people stopped using a total of 18 garments per person, but unfortunately she does not have as much data for the accusation as it has not been as key to Krisi's research.

SOURCING A LINK FOR THE STUDY.

I have not had chance to get back to the mass observation archive but am going on Friday, and will collect the data for a wardrobe inventory survey that was done during the second world war, and will see if there is anything else of interest.

Regarding the British Library and the sound archives, I have been going through them and have come across nothing of interest yet.

I therefore believe that I should set up a comparative group, where I may change some of the procedures so that I can get a better understanding of their consumption habits from the offset.

- To analyse whether to set up a comparative group based on whether I can find other studies to link onto or to benchmark my study against.

To research into the triggers and the findings for when people are more open to adopting environmental behaviour change.

I have found some interesting articles: by Bas Verplanken, and another article entitled: - 'Moments of change: exploring the transition to first-time parenthood as a point at which to influence the adoption of sustainable lifestyle practices'. Which is from the sustainable lifestyles research group in Surry.

'The 'moments of change' hypothesis suggests that lifecourse transitions, such as having a first child or retiring, can trigger changes in a variety of aspects of everyday life' (Venn et al. 2013:1)

But I still have more to read.

Monday 18th November 2013

After my tutorial last week I realised that I may have unintentionally biased my data, as on the volunteer forms and other bits on the letter drops I have the Centre for Sustainable Fashion logo, and I have mentioned in the initial stages of the interview (so the chat and a cup of tea) that I am a PHD researcher at The London College of Fashion, working with the Centre for Sustainable Fashion. Also one of the volunteers admitted to googling me and had found my webpage (last updated from my MA). Therefore this could have already put the idea of sustainability into their subconscious so the issues are as to this would then negate the study from being a true behaviour change process. So what I am going to have to do is to use this as a pilot study and find out what happens, if anything does at all and then to do a final study with hopefully no bias.

Another thing that I am going to do is to go through the transcriptions for each volunteer and pick out/ highlight anywhere where sustainability is mentioned (I don't think it is really, the closest they get is when discussing the retailers they buy from and who is okay).

I also need to research into backing up some of the evidence that I have found out, such as the fact that 6 out of 7 of the interviewees have/ are going through a life changing process, (jobs, family, moving...). And that I need to see if there are any other studies that I can find that I could use as a base line/ comparison especially as I feel that the volunteers were not very reliable when discussing their consumption habits as they often contradicted themselves.

I also need to start the workshops, even if I am missing 3 volunteers, so I need to start working out which days would be best for everyone. So I need to do an email BCC'd with everyone so that they can pole which evening / weekend to do.

Finalising the workshops. DIARY 6TH DEC 2013.

weeks trying to get all the volunteers diary's to have similar windows for the workshops to
imped for:

enings as 4x people could make it.
ons as 2x people could make it.

I am only going to be able to do 2x sessions with each group before Christmas as other wise it
ig too close to the holiday season and people get so busy with the run up that every evening

eeded up finding for the workshops before Christmas are,

e tomorrow, an ethical boutique in Dalston London has kindly let me borrow their space on an

LCF High Holborn so it is going to be interesting seeing how both groups react to the spaces
initial one being a creative environment with lots of exciting things to look at and the latter
oom that could be anywhere in an educational environment / conference facility.

Wednesday's first session

Unfortunately 2x of the volunteers have dropped out of the workshops before Christmas due to other engagements/ work commitments so I was quite anxious about how the session would go having just 2x people to work with especially after my tutorial where we discussed group numbers and what would be the optimum. I managed to get to Here today here tomorrow in good time to set everything up before the girls arrived and when they did found that they actually got on very well. Volunteer 1 is very outgoing and chatty so probably makes up for 2x people.

The session started well with both of them being very interested in the shop and wanting to learn more. I had decided to start with darning and then to see where to go on to from there, ideally moving on to patching and other stitch ideas. But I found that darning took up the whole two and a half hour session (Figure 8). One thing that I realised was that I had not come prepared with any first aid kits or anything else like that which I will have to bring on Sunday as one of the girls pricked her fingers straight away and then the other fell off her chair. So it was quite an eventful evening! An interesting point was how excited they were to be sewing and how much they were looking forward to doing things to their clothes.



Figure 8. darning by volunteer 6. Lucy.



Figure 9. High Holborn. December 8th. Mending workshop images.

Sundays first session 8th Dec

In room HH210 High Holborn (see Figure 9).

This obviously had a completely different feel to the session on Wednesday at Here Today Here Tomorrow. As it took place in an educational/ conference room setting so the atmosphere was much starker and did not have any exciting craft ideas to look at for inspiration. So I think that I am going to have to bring a few more things along to the next session. I also did not manage to connect to the internet so we had no background music otherwise the plan for the session was the same and so were the facilities that I brought. However the two ladies seemed quite happy there and we managed to get through more bits, whether they had more experience sewing, I'm not sure but we did the basics of darning and then went on to patching so I have left them with the idea that next Sunday we will attack some of our actual clothes and either use the methods we used today or to do some customization.



Understanding the volunteers frequency of purchasing clothing

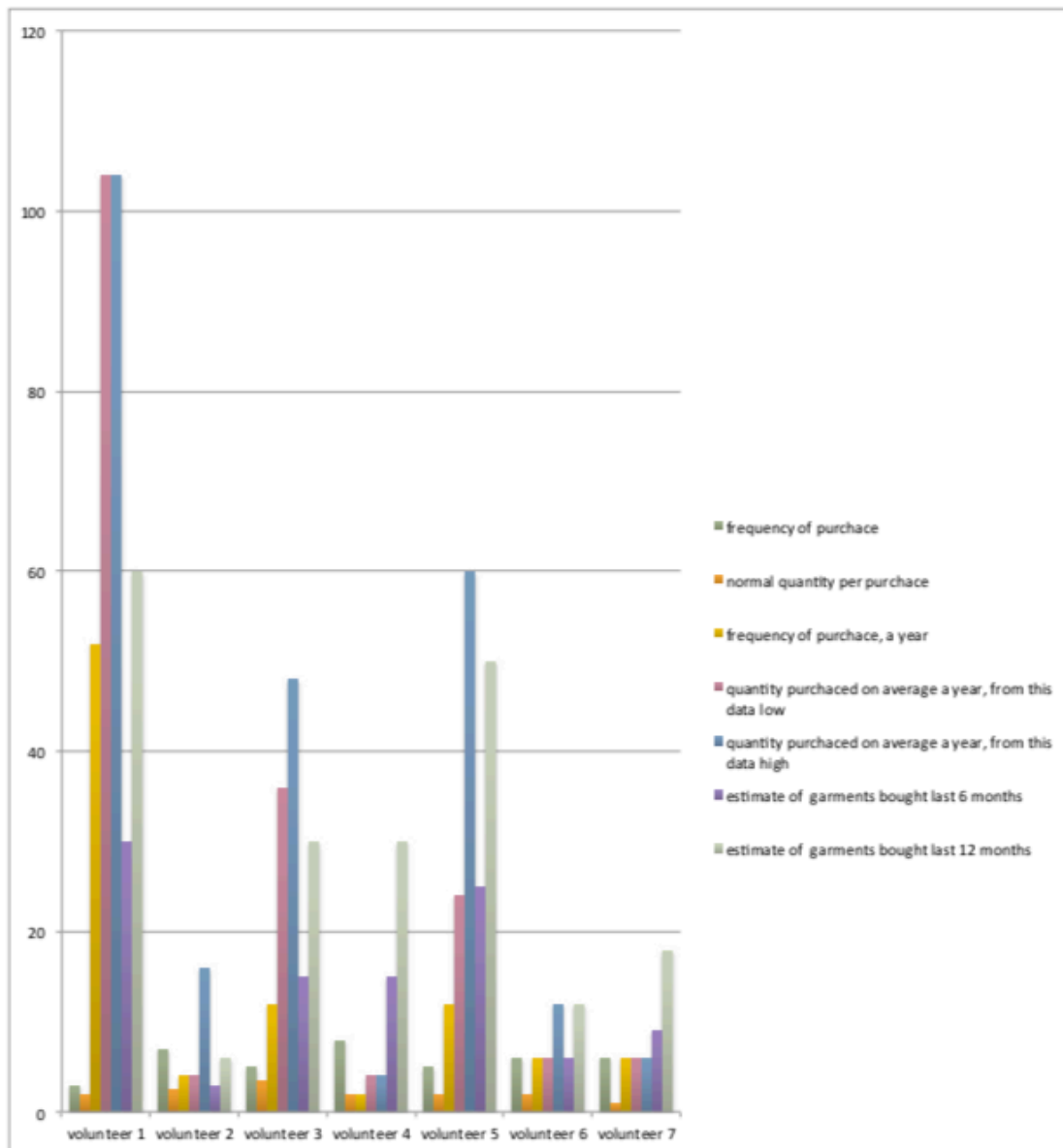


Figure 10. Understanding the volunteers frequency of purchasing clothing.

Probe cards

From starting to analyse the interviews I found that some of the volunteer's data was unreliable and conflicting. Especially where the amount of purchasing was involved. I found that calculating the amount of garments that they said they had bought in the last six months compared to how often they shopped and how many garments they bought were often quite different results (Figure 10).

The first line, frequency of purchase is almost a negative result as can be see below with the terms. So if you regularly shopped then you would have a lower amount.

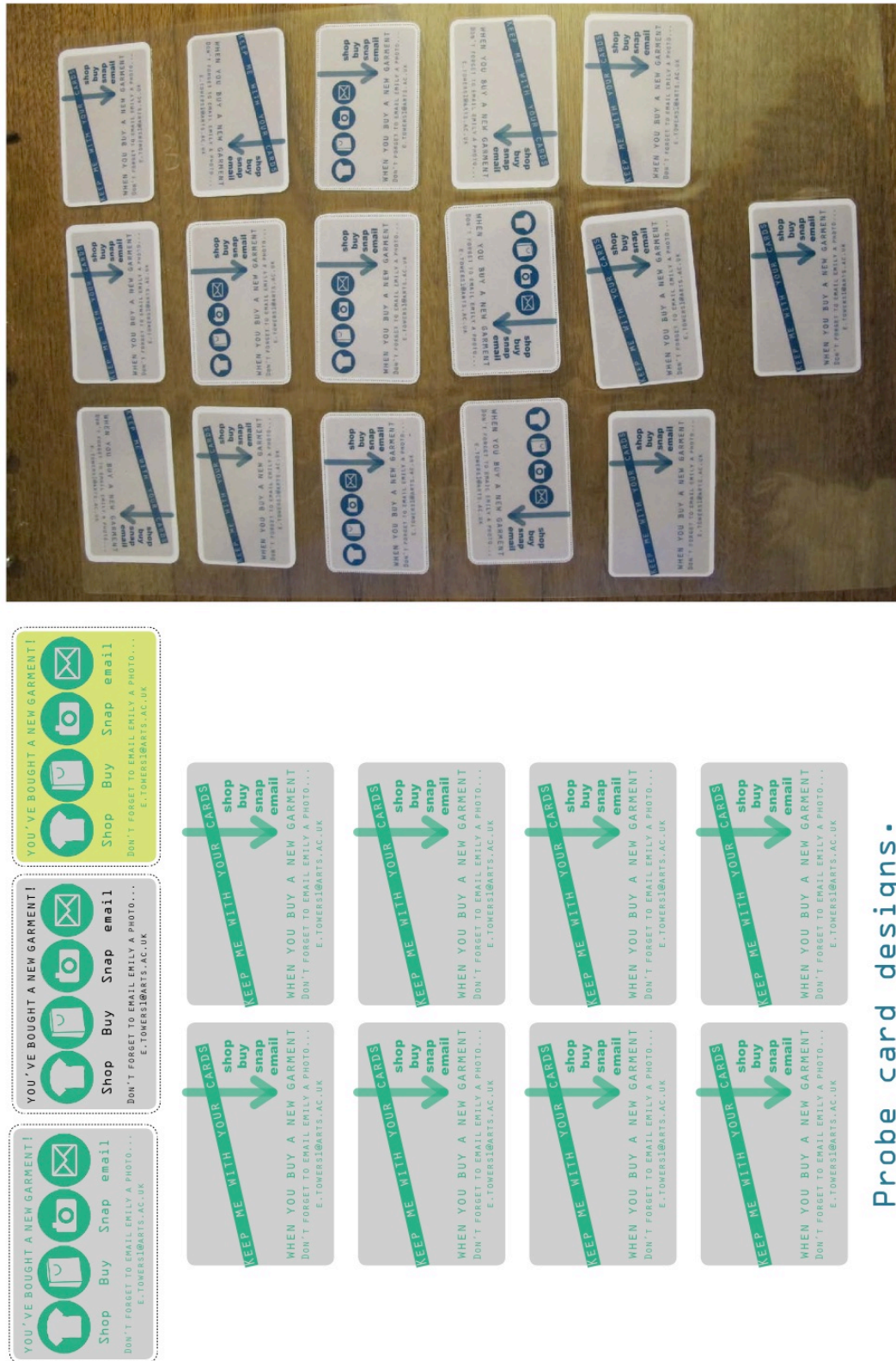
1	everyday	7	quarterly
2	2 to 5 a week	8	every six months
3	x1 a week	9	once a year
4	x 1 a fortnight	10	x1 in 5 years
5	x1 a month	11	never
6	x1 in 2 months	12	other.....

What is interesting though is how different the amounts of garments purchased are between the amount they thought they had bought in the last 6 months doubled to make a year, by the high and low amounts for the year that have been calculated from the frequency of shopping and the amount normally bought. The differences are huge only volunteers 2 and 5 have got the estimate of the garments bought in the last 122 months in between the data high and low. I therefore realised that it would be difficult to be able to use this data as a true representation of their new purchase habits. So what I decided to do is to design a probe that is credit card sized so that the volunteers carry it with them all the time and use it as a prompt when they purchase a garment to take a photo of it and then to email it to me (see Figure 12. Probe card designs..

I have so far received volunteer 3's photos for her new garments bought in December (Figure 11).



Figure 11. images of new garments purchased by volunteer 3. in December 2013



Probe card designs.

Figure 12. Probe card designs.



Wednesdays 2nd session 11th Dec

Unfortunately because of having had an attempted burglary in the afternoon I was quite disorganised and had not managed to bring in the probe cards that I had finished during the day. So I mentioned it to them and they are more than happy to go ahead. The other interesting thing that had happened was that they wanted to discuss how this was affecting their behaviour. That both of them were trying not to buy as many clothes, and are thinking about the issues surrounding sustainability more than before. So for the next session I need to have lots of questions ready to ask them about what they would buy, and what they would be looking for now, so how their shopping habits may have changed. The question therefore would be has the fact that I have come into their lives affected their behaviour more than the actual fact of doing the workshops, that I have given them enough triggers in what I have been suggesting. However is it actually changing their behaviour, or are they just telling me things that I want to hear?

We managed to go through how to make patches and they both did very good examples (see Figure 13).

Sundays 2nd session 15th Dec

I couldn't believe it but only one person turned up so we spent the few hours chatting and mending items of clothing. The volunteer managed to mend the holes in a shirt and a jumper before the end of the session and

I gave her one of the probe cards.

Figure 13. image of 11th December workshop.

Probe cards.

For the remaining volunteers I have posted the probe cards to them and have received a couple of photos already from one of them.

Workshops in the new year.

8.2.2 Habitat poster

CREATING ENDURING NARRATIVES WITH OUR CLOTHES THROUGH THE PRACTICE OF MENDING AND ITS EFFECT ON THE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF FASHION PRODUCTS.



Emily Towers
e.towers@arts.ac.uk

BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
WITHIN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
THREE RESIDENTIAL STREETS WERE PICKED
TO SOURCE VOLUNTEERS

1 STREETS USED TO SOURCE VOLUNTEERS.
● VOLUNTEERS.

AIMS: TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE METHODS TO OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF FASHION ACQUISITION BY ENCOURAGING THE EXTENSION OF CLOTHES' USEFUL LIVES, FOCUSING ON THE PRACTICE OF MENDING GARMENTS WITHIN OUR LOCAL HABITAT.

OBJECTIVES: TO DISCOVER, WHETHER ENCOURAGING CHANGES IN CONSUMPTION PATTERNS THROUGH CLOTHES REPAIR, RESULTS IN LONG-TERM BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE; REDUCING FASHION PRODUCT CONSUMPTION.

INITIAL STUDY: AN INVESTIGATION TO EXAMINE HOW VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THEIR WARDROBE ENVIRONMENT CARE FOR THEIR GARMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER MENDING INTERVENTIONS TAKE PLACE WITHIN GROUP WORKSHOPS.

CAN THE ACT OF MENDING A GARMENT AFFECT THE WAY WE INTERACT WITH, AND CONSUME OUR CLOTHING?

CAN CLOTHING RELATIONSHIPS EVOLVE TO INCORPORATE FASHION EXPERIENCES OTHER THAN SHOPPING, SUCH AS MENDING? COULD THE DESIRE FOR 'NEW' BE REDUCED, TO A 'LESS IS MORE' APPROACH?

HABIT(AT)

3RD DECEMBER 2013

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FASHION

8.2.3 First Interviews; Interview Questions

Initial Wardrobe interview:

Volunteer :

Code: ☐ age: ☐

Initial 1 to 1 open-ended interview (data gathering) in the participants home, including observations and analysis of their wardrobe.

>> Need to be very careful as I could influence the outcome of the investigation at this point with my questions and analysis. And to make sure that I can use it again for my next interviews.

Initial check off list:-

- Go through volunteer participant forms with the volunteer, make sure that they understand what is involved and get the forms signed.
- Inform the volunteer about what will be involved in the interview today:-
 - The interview is going to be about trying to understand your clothing habits.
 - I will be audio recording the session.
 - And I will be taking photographs of your wardrobes and clothing. if this is OK.
 - The whole process should take up to an hour.
 - I would also like to perform some/ all of the interview within the room that you keep your clothes.

❖ **General info about yourself to understand how you wear your clothing.**

1. First of all could you please tell me what made you decide to volunteer for the study?

2. Which age group do you fit in?

- ☐ 16-20(a) ☐ 21-25(b) ☐ 26-29(c) ☐ 30-34(d) ☐ 35-39(e) ☐ 40-44(f)
☐ 45-49(g) ☐ 50-54(h) ☐ 55-59(i) ☐ 60-64(j) ☐ Over 65(k)

3. tell me a bit about your lifestyle, what you do on an evening, weekends and such like. And how your clothes fit into this.

4. What kind of work do you do? –such as manager, designer e.t.c.

5. What is your job title?

6. Where do you work?

☐ Office ☐ at home ☐ a mixture of the two ☐ other to describe

.....

❖ **General shopping habits.**

7. What are your main reasons for buying a new garment? *E.g. similar garment worn out, specific occasions, I fancied buying something, I enjoy the experience.*

8. Approximately how often do you buy new garments?

- ☐ Every day ☐ 2 to 5 week ☐ x1 a week ☐ x1 a fortnight ☐ x1
a month
- ☐ x1 in 2 months ☐ quarterly ☐ every 6 months ☐ once a year ☐ x1
in 5 years
- ☐ never ☐ other

9. And when you make a purchase during a shopping trip approximately how many garments do you normally buy?

10. How many garments can you remember buying in the last 6 months?

11. Tell me about them.....

12. What brands, retailers and other shops do you normally buy from? *topshop, riverisland, H&M, Primark, Toast.... etc.*

13. Do you ever buy second hand clothing? *If so tell me about what you buy....*

- ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ occasionally ☐ other

14. When you are purchasing a garment, what elements do you consider? *Such as price, fit, quality....*

**General wardrobe habits**

15. Do you have a separate clothes/ wardrobes for different occasions, such as work/casual.

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ other

16. If so how many and what would you class these as?

17. What are your main reasons for discarding/ getting rid of a garment? *Tick as many as appropriate.*

☐ no longer fits ☐ falling to pieces ☐ boredom ☐ faulty ☐

never worn

☐ needs mending ☐ out of fashion ☐ don't like it anymore ☐ making space ☐

difficult to clean

☐ other.....

18. And what do you do with it?

☐ throw in bin ☐ take to charity shop ☐ textile recycling bin

☐ give to friends/ family ☐ swap at swishing party ☐ cash for clothing

☐ other.....

19. Plus how frequently do you discard them and approximately how many at a time.

☐ Every day ☐ 2 to 5 week ☐ x1 a week ☐ x1 a fortnight

☐ x1 a month ☐ x1 in 2 months ☐ quarterly ☐ every 6 months

☐ once a year ☐ x1 in 5 years ☐ never ☐ other

**Sewing skills.**

20. How much sewing experience do you have?

☐ none

☐ a little, I can sew on a button

☐ some, I have basic sewing skills

- ☐ I am happy to follow simple patterns to sew and alter garments
- ☐ loads, I can follow/ create complex patterns and can make difficult alterations.

21. Are you confident in using a sewing machine?

- ☐ never used ☐ not at all ☐ a little, sew simple things ☐ am confident.
- ☐ very confident.

22. Are you confident to perform any of the following.... types of mending.

- ☐ Darning ☐ Patching ☐ Repairing tears
- ☐ Shortening ☐ Slight alterations in size ☐ Re-seaming broken
stitch work.
- ☐ Lengthening ☐ Invisible mending ☐ Customising
- ☐ Re-sewing buttons ☐ Major alterations: eg adding ☐ Others please
describe
- fabric to make the garment larger.

23. What do you hope to gain form these workshops?

24. What are your main constraints to mending? Time? Skills? Equipment? Confidence? Etc...

❖ **Open-ended questions about what people do with worn out clothing**

25. Is there anything you do or have ever done to try and extend a garments life?

- ☐ yes ☐ no ☐ not sure ☐ other

.....

26. If so what have you done and could you show me some examples and talk about them.

--

27. What do you do with a garment when a button falls off?

--

28. What do you do with a garment when you find a hole in it?

--

29. What do you do with a garment when the zip no longer works/ broken...

❖ **In-depth studies of garments:-** *the wearer is to pick up to x3 examples per theme, to answer specific questions and to have it photographed and then to talk about it generally, to find out the relationship between the garments.*

- Your Favourite garments. *Why are they your favourites? Tell me about your relationship with them...*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- Garments that you never wear but keep, *what do you do with them? Why do you keep them? Tell me about your relationship with them...*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- Garments that you wear all the time. *Why do you wear them all the time? Tell me about your relationship with them...*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- Garments that you have had the longest / or are the oldest. *What is the oldest piece in your wardrobe? Tell me about it....*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- The newest garments that you have. *What is the newest piece in your wardrobe? Tell me about it and how do you feel about it?...*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- Any garments that have had alterations, repairs, and or customizations made to them. *What were your reasons for having these done? Who performed the alterations? And how have these amendments affected how you feel about the garment?*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- Any garments that need maintenance/ alterations so that you can continue wearing them. *Tell me about it and how do you feel about it?...*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- Any garments that you are going to dispose of in the next couple of months. *Tell me about it and how do you feel about it?... and why you are going to dispose of it.*

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear

- ❖ Where do you store your clothes? *To have a look and to take photos at this point.*

- ☐ wardrobe ☐ chest of drawers ☐ cupboard ☐ shelving
☐ under the bed ☐ attic ☐ other

- ❖ **Amount of garments in the wardrobe:- photograph the wardrobes, chest of drawers, etc...**

Looking at: Quantity and Style only.

	Jearsy tops								
	T-shirts								
	Shirts								
	jackets								
	coats								
	camisoles/ strappy tops								
	dresses								
	skirts								

Thank you very much for your time and for talking to me about your clothing habits.

30. To finish do you think today's discussion has affected your relationship with your clothing?

8.2.4 Interview Diary

8.2.4.1 Initial Wardrobe Interview 1st October 2013:



Figure 14. Images of where volunteer 1 stores her clothes.

Overall reflections from the interview:-

I feel that it went well and that I managed to keep in the time frame that I had set myself of an hour. However I feel that I was not rigorous enough with all of the data collection especially with the in-depth look at the garments, because looking at my information written down afterwards I have missed out a couple of the garments ages and have also missed a lot of the fabric compositions off. This is because I found it difficult doing the quantitative data gathering and the qualitative (the narrative of the garment) at the same time – One question I need to ask my self is, is the composition really relevant to my study?

I also did not ask the questions: 24 through to 27 as I felt like we had already covered a lot of the information in the earlier replies. However I need to decide how relevant these questions are and whether to include them in my next interviews.

	garments that are worn all the time	the oldest garments that they have	4	jeans	shirt	top/ cami	jeans	dress	jacket	garments that are worn all the time	3	garments that are worn all the time	2	garments that are worn all the time	1	Frequency of wear										Frequency of use																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
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1	favorite garments	cardi	8	2	5	n/a	1,2,3,4	e	1. double merrant	2. ribble	3. n/a	4. n/a	5. n/a	6. n/a	7. n/a	8. n/a	9. n/a	10. n/a	11. n/a	12. n/a	13. n/a	14. n/a	15. n/a	16. n/a	17. n/a	18. n/a	19. n/a	20. n/a	21. n/a	22. n/a	23. n/a	24. n/a	25. n/a	26. n/a	27. n/a	28. n/a	29. n/a	30. n/a	31. n/a	32. n/a	33. n/a	34. n/a	35. n/a	36. n/a	37. n/a	38. n/a	39. n/a	40. n/a	41. n/a	42. n/a	43. n/a	44. n/a	45. n/a	46. n/a	47. n/a	48. n/a	49. n/a	50. n/a	51. n/a	52. n/a	53. n/a	54. n/a	55. n/a	56. n/a	57. n/a	58. n/a	59. n/a	60. n/a	61. n/a	62. n/a	63. n/a	64. n/a	65. n/a	66. n/a	67. n/a	68. n/a	69. n/a	70. n/a	71. n/a	72. n/a	73. n/a	74. n/a	75. n/a	76. n/a	77. n/a	78. n/a	79. n/a	80. n/a	81. n/a	82. n/a	83. n/a	84. n/a	85. n/a	86. n/a	87. n/a	88. n/a	89. n/a	90. n/a	91. n/a	92. n/a	93. n/a	94. n/a	95. n/a	96. n/a	97. n/a	98. n/a	99. n/a	100. n/a	101. n/a	102. n/a	103. n/a	104. n/a	105. n/a	106. n/a	107. n/a	108. n/a	109. n/a	110. n/a	111. n/a	112. n/a	113. n/a	114. n/a	115. n/a	116. n/a	117. n/a	118. n/a	119. n/a	120. n/a	121. n/a	122. n/a	123. n/a	124. n/a	125. n/a	126. n/a	127. n/a	128. n/a	129. n/a	130. n/a	131. n/a	132. n/a	133. n/a	134. n/a	135. n/a	136. n/a	137. n/a	138. n/a	139. n/a	140. n/a	141. n/a	142. n/a	143. n/a	144. n/a	145. n/a	146. n/a	147. n/a	148. n/a	149. n/a	150. n/a	151. n/a	152. n/a	153. n/a	154. n/a	155. n/a	156. n/a	157. n/a	158. n/a	159. n/a	160. n/a	161. n/a	162. n/a	163. n/a	164. n/a	165. n/a	166. n/a	167. n/a	168. n/a	169. n/a	170. n/a	171. n/a	172. n/a	173. n/a	174. n/a	175. n/a	176. n/a	177. n/a	178. n/a	179. n/a	180. n/a	181. n/a	182. n/a	183. n/a	184. n/a	185. n/a	186. n/a	187. n/a	188. n/a	189. n/a	190. n/a	191. n/a	192. n/a	193. n/a	194. n/a	195. n/a	196. n/a	197. n/a	198. n/a	199. n/a	200. n/a	201. n/a	202. n/a	203. n/a	204. n/a	205. n/a	206. n/a	207. n/a	208. n/a	209. n/a	210. n/a	211. n/a	212. n/a	213. n/a	214. n/a	215. n/a	216. n/a	217. n/a	218. n/a	219. n/a	220. n/a	221. n/a	222. n/a	223. n/a	224. n/a	225. n/a	226. n/a	227. n/a	228. n/a	229. n/a	230. n/a	231. n/a	232. n/a	233. n/a	234. n/a	235. n/a	236. n/a	237. n/a	238. n/a	239. n/a	240. n/a	241. n/a	242. n/a	243. n/a	244. n/a	245. n/a	246. n/a	247. n/a	248. n/a	249. n/a	250. n/a	251. n/a	252. n/a	253. n/a	254. n/a	255. n/a	256. n/a	257. n/a	258. n/a	259. n/a	260. n/a	261. n/a	262. n/a	263. n/a	264. n/a	265. n/a	266. n/a	267. n/a	268. n/a	269. n/a	270. n/a	271. n/a	272. n/a	273. n/a	274. n/a	275. n/a	276. n/a	277. n/a	278. n/a	279. n/a	280. n/a	281. n/a	282. n/a	283. n/a	284. n/a	285. n/a	286. n/a	287. n/a	288. n/a	289. n/a	290. n/a	291. n/a	292. n/a	293. n/a	294. n/a	295. n/a	296. n/a	297. n/a	298. n/a	299. n/a	300. n/a	301. n/a	302. n/a	303. n/a	304. n/a	305. n/a	306. n/a	307. n/a	308. n/a	309. n/a	310. n/a	311. n/a	312. n/a	313. n/a	314. n/a	315. n/a	316. n/a	317. n/a	318. n/a	319. n/a	320. n/a	321. n/a	322. n/a	323. n/a	324. n/a	325. n/a	326. n/a	327. n

	tops	30
	T-shirts	20
	shirts	19
	jackets	10
	coats	5
	camisoles/strappy tops	30
	dresses	40
	skirts	5
	jeans	35
	trousers	6
	shorts	13
	all in ones	8
	knitwear	
	jumpers	8
	cardigans	
	sweatshirts/hoodies	7
total		238

Questions that need to be added to the interview formally, so not before or after I have finished recording the interview:-

What do you hope to gain from the workshops?

- ⟨ What made you decide to volunteer for the study?
- ⟨ What are your main constraints to mending? Time? Skills? Equipment? Confidence? Etc...
- ⟨ And then at the end; do you think today's discussion has affected your relationship with your clothing?

Also from starting to transcribe the interview I have realised that I did not act as purely an impartial interviewer, I felt the need at some points to agree, disagree or to add comments of my own and therefore within the analysis I will need to work out how that might have effected what the interviewee said. In future interviews I will have to make sure that I only give neutral information the next time/ keep my opinions to my self.

Another point is that because the interviewees clothing was in so many places and I did not want to create a huge mess we decided to guestimate the amount of items that she has, by counting one pile and then assuming that in the other piles of the same type of garment she would have a similar number. Again I need to decide whether this is accurate enough for my needs, or whether I should be measuring the amount of space she has in her wardrobe.

During our discussion, the interviewee mentioned that she got rid of approximately three bags full of clothing a year so to try and quantify this measurement I asked what kind of bags they were to gage the size but even though I found out that they were bin bags of garments its still difficult to judge the size. So I need to work out a simple way of measuring the size and a mount of clothing discarded, as with out measuring the size/ weight of something it is very difficult to quantify and to be able to compare and contrast with other volunteers.

Before I performed the pilot interview I had already moved the interview around a bit and I think I need to do it again slightly, as there was one question that was much easier to answer within the interviewees bedroom than in her sitting room – where do you store your clothing?

Impressions from the interview:-

The interviewee lives in a small cottage in Islington, with the front door opening directly into the living room, a small kitchen and the bedroom is above almost on a mezzanine level. In the living room, the first things I noticed were lots of birthday cards (and the remains of the fancy dress costumes form the weekends celebrations were confirmed later) also there were about 4x pairs of old ballet shoes hanging up that the interviewee confirmed were hers from years ago, and that she is a qualified ballet teacher. In fact one of the shoes showed proof that she can sew a running stich as she needed to do it on the toe of the ballet shoes to get them to last for longer, however she did not have enough patience so she only managed to do one of the pair.

The interview commenced in her living room and then moved into her bedroom approximately half way through once we got on to the 8x themes of clothing that I had asked her already to pull out to show me. I feel that sending an email with all of the details beforehand really helped and gave the interviewee the time to think about the garments earlier, allowing us to keep to an hours chat. In the email I asked her to pick out up to 3x items of clothing form each theme to use as a starting point in our discussions. The eight themes were (Figure 15):

- < Your Favorite garments.
- < Garments that you never wear but keep
- < Garments that you wear all the time
- < Garments that you have had the longest / or are the oldest.
- < The newest garments that you have.
- < Any garments that have had alterations, repairs, and or customizations made to them
- < Any garments that need maintenance/ alterations so that you can continue wearing them.
- < Any garments that you are going to dispose of in the next couple of months.

In the bedroom there is a metal rail (average size) full of jackets tops and dresses, and a chest of drawers that has 2x of the drawers used for garments – 1x is of tops/ t-shirts and the other for trousers/ jeans (Figure 14). The interviewee then also mentioned that she has clothing under her bed and it also turns out that they are in 3x large boxes going up the stairs and then another couple of boxes on the floor. After doing our count of her clothing (Figure 15), I felt that I needed to do the same at home to find out if I had a similar number to her, especially as I feel like I have quite a few things that I don't wear any more that I keep for nostalgic reasons or as a decoration like a painting. Amazingly I felt much better after doing it as I found out that I have less than half the amount of clothes that she shoes, what would be very useful would be to explore her active wardrobe and mine and see the differences there.

From doing the transcription, I have realised that I need to describe what I am talking about, in order for the transcript to make sense as I am not going to remember exactly what the volunteer is holding up when we are talking bout something.

And then from my first interview, something that has come across is; are you more likely to do some thing to a garment because it was cheap or expensive? – two issues here as an expensive garment you want to get your wear out of it but also you might be put off altering it because you are scared that you might ruin it. Whereas the opposite might be true for a cheaper garment.

8.2.4.2 Initial Wardrobe Interview 2. 15TH October (Morning) 2013: *Mother/ Guide* *Dog Trainer*

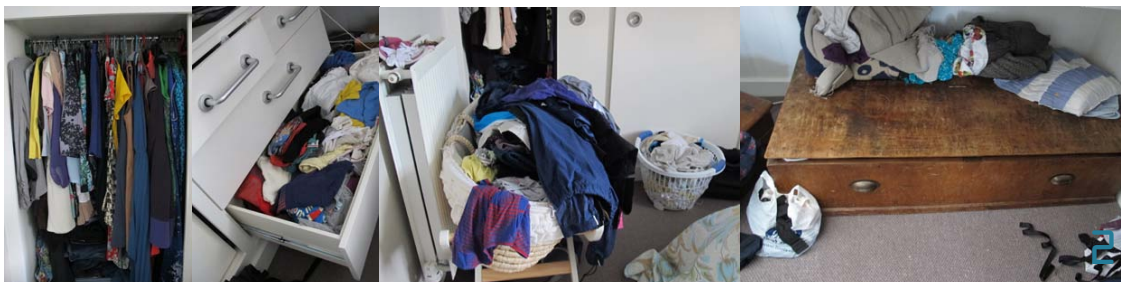


Figure 16. Images of where volunteer 2 stores her clothes.

Overall reflections from the interview:-

Interviewee 2 is a new mother on maternity leave with a little girl of six months so she has very different wardrobe needs at the moment to when she was working. Her work prior to having a child was training guide dogs for the blind, so it entailed wearing logoed sweatshirts and spending most of the time outdoors, in an office or someone's home.

Her clothes that she wears now tend to be what's comfortable and practical first, so tops that you can nurse in, trousers that are not tight... and things like that. Her body shape is still different to the size of the majority of the clothes in her wardrobe so when she needs to dress up for an evening out/ socialising its what ever fits, rather than what she feels good in. There are a number of pieces that she has bought in the last six months such as nursing tops, short that are no longer maternity and a dress for a wedding that fit her body now.

So one of the reasons for doing the workshops would be to make some of the post maternity items fit her reducing body size.

General impressions:-

Volunteer 2 lives in a large three bed flat covering the 1, 2 and third floors of a Victorian property on a residential street close to Draton Park and the Emirates stadium (I am assuming that they own it as they have had recent work done to it). Having this amount of space to share with her Husband and child means that she does not have to be too ruthless with her clothes as there is plenty of areas for her to store them, in the spare room and her bedroom. In all her clothes are mixed with her husbands over two wardrobes and 2x chest of drawers with a chest for knits (Figure 16). Unfortunately when we were counting her clothing we didn't include her workwear, sportswear (that again included another drawer of old t-shirts that had been chopped up to become running vests), or the items in the washing basket so again the number of garments is an estimate. Overall I got the impression that out of all the garments that she had very few were being worn. Also her husband has put together a bag full of his shirts and bits that he wants her to be able to look after once she has the skills.

8.2.4.3 Initial Wardrobe Interview 3. 15TH October (Afternoon)

2013: *Singer/Songwriter*



Figure 17. Images of where volunteer 3 stores her clothes.

Overall reflections from the interview:-

Interviewee 3 is with a singer /songwriter so most of her purchases are for her stage performances which once she has worn them many times for her gigs they then become part of her everyday wardrobe. Her general style is quite casual, so lots of t-shirts and jeans. As she has recently moved into the flat with her boyfriend, she has got rid of a lot of her clothes, and has a bin bag full of things she feels is of value so would like to have a go at selling on ebay, this bin bag was almost five kilos so as much as my kitchen scales could take! There are still a few garments that have not been unpacked yet and her clothes are in both her bedroom and the spare room mixed in with her boyfriends, over 2x wardrobes and a few drawers in a chest of drawers and the shelves of the wardrobe (Figure 17). Her stage style is very important to her and she finds that it needs to reflect her personal style so that she can be relaxed and confident on the stage.

General impressions:-

The flat is on the lower ground floor as part of a Victorian terrace in a residential street near Archway tube. It's rented and comes with a garden, but the property is in need of modernisation especially to make the kitchen more practical, but apparently the rents cheap for the size of the flat.

8.2.4.4 Initial Wardrobe Interview 4. 16TH October 2013: Stock Room Manager At A Luxury Boutique In Knightsbridge



Figure 18. Images of where volunteer 4 stores her clothes.

Overall reflections from the interview:-

Volunteer 4, used to live on one of the roads that I performed my drop shoots on but has since moved to Seven Sisters. Because her job involves selling expensive designer clothing her wardrobe is a mixture of pieces that she has bought for a discount and then pieces from the high street (predominantly Zara).

General impressions:-

She rents a room in a well looked after shared house (but I don't think they have a living room, just a large kitchen).

Her clothing is immaculately organised and she has a rail, hanging drawers and then clothing that is the wrong season in packed away and stored in bags under the bed (Figure 18). This is someone who looks after her clothes and takes pride in them.

I found out that the volunteer is creative and has some knowledge about how things go together, but what she is lacking is the time and space (both mental and physical) to perform mending. Most of her clothes have been altered by her tailor from her native country (Portugal) where she saves up garments to be fitted when she goes back to see the family.

What was interesting was that the alterations, and repair work were done on both the high value clothes and garments from the high street. The value for her is whether they 'are her' and are an acceptable level of quality, look good and are functional.

8.2.4.5 Initial Wardrobe Interview 5. 17TH October 2013: *Risk Manager.*



Figure 19. Image of where volunteer 5 stores her clothes.

Overall reflections from the interview:-

As volunteer 5 has only just started a new job, she has not quite worked out how her wardrobe is going to have to evolve to accommodate her new clothing habits. Which look like they are going to be much smarter.

General impressions:-

She lives in a small two bed flat in a modern block of flats near archway with her partner who is often traveling (Figure 19). And her clothes are very eclectic as she grew up all over Europe and then her parents live abroad so a lot of her wardrobe is from outside the UK. Some of her clothes are ones that she does not wear but because of who gave them to her/ who owned them before it prevents her from being able to get rid of them.

8.2.4.6 Initial Wardrobe Interview 6. 25TH October 2013: *Homemaker/ Charity Worker.*

Overall reflections from the interview and general impressions:-

This volunteer was made redundant in her 50's and has since not returned to work. So she now fills her time with various charities and organisations and finds that she is busier than before. But she is doing things that

she wants to. She lives in a large house of Blackstock road in Finsbury Park with her husband (who is still working), which is at least 3x stories high (not sure whether they have converted the attic). The house is full of things and I got the impression that they are hoarders. Apparently, the only thing that they have done to it since moving into the house 12 years ago is to put in a new kitchen, so everything is looking a little in need of repair.

What I find fascinating is the effect that a poor teacher had had on her during her sewing classes at secondary school. This negative effect has prevented her from being able to even sew on a button without feeling terrible, therefore her aim with the workshops is to overcome her fear of uselessness at performing practical tasks.

Another interesting point is that because the interviewer is that much older she has kept clothes for longer than the other participants, some of them from school. These garments seem to be imbued with attachment. However there are a few pieces that she came across that she had completely forgotten about (possibly since she first moved to the property) and has decided that they should go. Some of these things have been attacked by moths. This lady does seem to have two principle reasons for keeping things: practicality which equates to the garments that she wears regularly and then things with emotional attachment that are worn less regularly – often special pieces that are kept because of the memories associated to them.

8.2.4.7 Initial Wardrobe Interview 7. 25TH October 2013: NHS.

Overall reflections from the interview and general impressions:-

This volunteer was found from a call for volunteers at a WI evening, and she lives in Islington, near the Essex road overground, in an ex-local authority house that is being done up with her husband. Having recently got married and found out that they are expecting a baby, their plans for doing up the property have been speeded up for the imminent arrival as they won't be able to continue living in two rooms.

Again her attachment to clothes seems to be one of practical rather than emotional choice, her clothes have to really work for her as she has not got much space for them and so is very ruthless about getting rid of stuff and very careful about buying things. A lot of her clothes come from charity shops, because they tend to be more interesting, better quality and also for the price issue. Some of her garments have been mended slightly, with either buttons being re-sewn, seams that split hand sewn together and also a bit of crochet covering a hole in a jumper. Though when these things happen, with example from the jumper they become house clothes, they are not smart enough to be seen in public any more.

8.2.4.8 General Impressions From All The Interviews.

The amount of clothing that the women have tends to be affected by the amount of space that they have to store the clothes – even the super consumer (volunteer1) had, had to get rid of three bin bags of clothing just because she had moved into a smaller flat.

Another think that seems to affect the amount of clothes is how often they have moved/ or if they have been settled in one place for a long time, because things can then just be forgotten about. One lady found the interview fascinating as she found some clothes that she hadn't looked at for about 10 years.

I was surprised about the general lack of attachment that the volunteers felt towards the garments. How they were often thought of just as performing a job even though they all talked about their interest in fashion and how clothes built up their persona.

8.2.5 Excel Spread Sheets Quan Data

[illegible]

General info about the vo

- 1 16-20
- 2 21-25
- 3 26-29
- 4 30-34
- 5 35-39
- 6 40-44
- 7 45-49
- 8 50-54
- 9 55-59
- 10 60-64
- 11 Over 65

General info about

interviews:

	1	2	3
	why volunteered	age group	general lifestyle
1 Sonya	n/a	5	no work weekend wardrobe
2 Alice	have lots of clothe and not many are used	4	style not a priority. Need practical, comfortable clothing, outdoorsy gear
3 Carolin	not very good at sewing and wanted to learn, like the idea of reusing, alternative activity	4	no work clothes, stage clothes, main reason for bying clothes is for the stage for style, casual, not much going out stuff
4 Nancy	crafts and fashion, always busy,	4	mix everything
5 Sophie	interesting, to sew on a button, fix basic tears, also emphathy as difficult to find volunteers.	3	smart casual, bold colours, formal and corporate, travel a lot for pleasure. The fact that chosing what you wear 3x catagories, keen
6 Lucy	had issues at 2ndary schol. Love clothes, to find out how garments are put to gether, not goood with clothes	7	gardener, so gardening clothes wear all the time - oldest clothes. 2nd every dav cllothine trs & toos.
7 Bea	interested in mending workshops, like clothes and fashion	5	work 9-5 in busnisey clothes, cas dress more in the evening

Volunteer.

What the volunteer.

					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
		1 office			10
		2 at home			11
		3 a mixture of the two			12
		4 other to describe			
4	5	6	7		
kind of work	job title	where do you work	main reasons for buying a garment	frequency	
meetings	agent for tv presenters, stylists	mainly in office but going to meetings/ photoshoots 3	finding something	3	
training dogs/ mother	guide dog trainer/ on maternity leave	4 in job: outdoors/ office maternity leave: at home	practicalities of motherhood, anything for a treat.	7	
musician	singer/ song writer	4 predominantly at home and then on the road - traveling round venues	work, for performing, making sure shes current/ keeping up with the trends	5	
open boxes, order, manage website stock	stock room manager fashion boutique	1	emotional, feel good	8	
research	researcher in risk management consultancy	1	mixed, necessity and emotional	5	
redundant - little contract work with local government.	policy advisor civil service/ volunteer for charities, organisations	25 % of time at home in Cornwall. So another wardrobe in Cornwall 2	buy for need or if I love something	6	
work for the NHS in a hospital	audiologist	1	utility, don't buy a lot, philosophy. When it a big purchase try to buy natural fibers, don't shop at primark, M&S, topshop	6	

everyday
 2 to 5 a week
 x1 a week
 x 1 a fortnight
 x1 a month
 x1 in 2 months
 quarterly
 every six months
 once a year
 x1 in 5 years
 never
 other.....

general shopping habits

general shopping habits			
8	9	10	11
quency of purchase	normal quantity per purchase	estimate of garments bought last 6th months	discription
shop around lifestyle, inbetween meetings, online.	more than 1	around 30	
every 3 to 6 months now. Before having a child once a month	1 to 4	3	2x nursing tops and one dress
	varies, once you start maybe 3 or 4	15 (can think of 3)	
during the sales approx x2 year	2	10 to 20	
	depends bought x5 but normally x2	25 approx	
	1/2 and 1/2 buy 2x things	6	4x dresses 1 trs. New ones from france and spain, 2x ovely light dresses, wore them everyday on holiday, and
	1	8 to 10	dress and cardi

general wardrobe

	1 yes 2 no 3 occasionally 4 other		1 yes 2 no 3 other.....
12	13	14	15
brands/ retailers used	2nd hand clothing	elements considered in clothes purchases	seperate clothes wardrobes?
Zara, Kooples, Other stories, Whistles, Reiss, All Saints, Topshop, Isabelle Marant	1	how much it will be worn, ration of price to frequency of wear	2
oasis, warehouse, topshop & consessions, H&M, Gap	3	need to have the time and patience to have a dig	1
urban outfitters, topshop, Benson	1	ad hoc, no beeline for second hand. Last thing was a dress from a charity shop in Cardiff	1
Zara,	2		2
tk max, 2nd hand clothes, H & H, Zara, Hobs, Urban Outfitters	1	find quality is better and different, mainly dresses	3
John Lewis, occasionally Liberties, M&S, Hobs, Long tall Sally, White Stripe, Fat Face, Rohan	1	and swish event 5 things	1
charity shop, M&S lingere, danish and sweedish boutique brands, TK MAX	1	recycling, preloved not in land fill - good quality items	2

e habits

1	no longer fits	1	everyday
2	falling to pieces	2	2 to 5 a week
3	boredom	3	x1 a week
4	faulty	4	x 1 a fortnight
5	never worn	5	x1 a month
6	no longer used	6	x1 in 2 months
7	needs mending	7	quarterly
8	out of fashion	8	every six months
9	don't like anymore	9	once a year
10	making space/ space	10	x1 in 5 years
11	difficult to clean	11	never
12	emotional	12	other.....

bits

disposal habits

16	17	18	19	
if so how many and what would you class these as?	reasons for getting rid of a garment	how garments are disposed of	how frequently are garments disposed	
	1 season of not wearing, only holiday, trying to be ruthless, if buying something new to replace.	2, 3, 8	9	moving flats recently ment 3x bin bags full of garments
1	age, stains, rips, not had had enough use, or never worn	2	every 3 months	bag lives in kitchen, hessian bags for life x2 predominantly volunteers clothes
2	3, bad purchases, looking scruffy, looking old	2, 7	8	bin bag full each time plus plus has a 4.8kg bag ready to go on ebay
3	5, 6, 10, 12	2, 4, 7	8	2x bin bags
4	6, 2	1, 2	7	quite often, every few months. Small carrier bag 3 to 5 things. Last one at Christmas size of bn bag 1/2 full of clothes
5	2, wear 5% 95% of the time	1, 2	8	it takes and event, easily a small bin bag full
6	stop wearing it, broken, loved no longer	2, 7	7	1/2 tesco carrier bag

general sewing skills

- 1 Darning
- 2 Shortening
- 3 Lengthening
- 4 Re-sewing buttons
- 5 Patching
- 6 Slight alterations in size
- 7 Invisible mending
- 8 Major alterations
- 9 Repairing tears
- 10 Re-seaming broken stitch work
- 11 customizing
- 12 others to describe

none 1 never used
 a little, i can sew on a button 2 not at all
 some, i know basic sewing 3 a little, simple things
 can follow patterns to sew 4 am confident
 lots, can follow complex patterns 5 very confident

general sewing skills

20	21	22	23
how much sewing experience	confidence in using a sewing machine	confident to perform forms of mending:-	what they hope to gain from the workshops
3	2	2 3 4	n/a
2	1	5, 9, 4, 11	know how to darn, sewing machines, change in attitude and new skills
at school not sure	2	4, 11	confidence to do simple repairs
earn't how to hand sew, crocheter, crochet and knit	1	4, 9, 10	nice to do, to have the space to be creative
3	1	4, 9, 10	better sewing skills, capacity to alter garments
2	2	4	love to be able to use the machine and sew a straight hem
3	3	4, 5, 9, 11	love to use a sewing machine a little more

opened questions about worn out cl

- 1 Yes
2 No
3 Not sure
4 Other

opened questions about worn out clot

24		25	27	28
main constraints to mending		anything they do to extend a garments life	what they do when a button falls off	what they do with a hole in the garment
n/a	1	cautious about washing delicate clothes, and wearing delicate things too much	n/a	n/a
motivation, lack of skills.	2	not personally, just layer up to hide/cover marks and holes	sew it herself	depends on how much u liked it.
time, skills, equipment	3	keep stuff until its fashionable again, get stuff mended	wear without buttons	leave it until it gets too big
time	1	take to tailor	sew on yourself	
time and willingness to make time	1	had a coats lining repaired several times	sew it on	depends on how bad it was
not practical, knowledge base and confidence. Learn by doing.	2		have done	
	1	patched holes, normaly in a loved item. Went swishing, changed bttons on a cardy	fix it	depending on where it was

clothing

final questions

thing			final questions	
	29	30	31	32
	what they do with a broken zip.	garments are stored in...	total of garments	reflection on the session
	n/a	rail, chest of drawers, under the bed, chest , suitcases and boxes	238	
	depends on how much u liked it.	2 x wardrobes, chest of drawers, stand alone chest.	215	
	local tailor	2 x wardrobe, chest of drawers	102	
	take to tailor	rail, under the bed, shelves on the rail	110	
	go some where	2x wardrobes chest of drawers	115	
		wardrobe, chest of drawers, piles in a corner cupboard	84	pure gestimation, not taking into account of clothing in cornwall
	not know how to fix, if relly wanted to go to upper st	wardrobe, chest of drawers, couple of bags in storage for the last 2 and 1/2 years	60	<u>made me think more about my clo</u>

8.2.6 Excel spread sheets data with photos

clo in wardrobe











































Overview of Interview garment questions

colour
length
type/cut
style
quality
fit
age
transformation
season / comfort
season
mark (brand)
label
frequency of wear
notes

1 to 2 years
2 to 3 years
3 to 4 years
4 to 5 years
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



































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


























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










	colour	length	type/cut	style	quality	fit	age	transformation	season / comfort	season	mark (brand)	label	frequency of wear	notes				
1		1	dress	4	3	2	5	1 year	0	1,2,3,4	5	1	isabelle marant	2	cotton viscose	4	been worn as much as most of the clothes and worn for many days. I like it because it's comfortable and it's a good quality. I've worn it for 2 years.	
		1	cardi	3	4	2	5	1 year	0	1	4	2	etole	1	wool, alpaca, acrylic	4		
		1	bandage dress	4	3	1	7	4	4 years	0	4,5	5	1	acnee	2	unknown	2	
		1	t-shirt	3	6	4	7	3.5	3 to 4 years	0	1	1	3	illustrated people	4	poly, cotton, visc	6	worn for 2 weeks and then for 2 weeks.
		1	cardi	4	3	3	7	4	4 years	0	1,3,4	5	2	betsy johnson	1	cotton, rayon, rayon	5	
		1	dress	2	5 (gold)	4	7	3.5	3 to 4 years	0	3,4	4	5	oasis	1	acrylic, visc, poly	2	been worn for 2 weeks to 2 years ago.
		1	top	4	3	4	5	1	1 year	n/a	1	5	5	urban outfitters	4	cotton	5	
		1	boob tube top	4	14 + 10	4	9	13	13 years	was a dress, when hot up of the dress suit it to become a top	1,3	5	5	18 max	4	leat and mesh, poly	4	given to a year
		1	sweatshirt	3	4	3	4	0.5	6 months	n/a	1	5	6	H&M	4	cotton	6	given to a friend
		1	jeans	4	6	2	3	2	2 years	3. fitted at the waist	1	5	1	current/ Elliott	2	cotton	6	for 2 weeks
		1	jeans	4	6	4	8	2.5	5/6 years	3. fitted at the waist	1	5	5	zara	2	cotton	7	most of the time
		1	dress	4	3	4	6	2	2 years	0	2,3	1,3,4	5	uri covert garden	2	poly	5	worn a week to every other
		1	skirt	3	13	3	8	6	6 years	6	2,3	5	5	belgium department store	2	silk	5	worn for many weeks, given and everything, never got worn again.
		1	dress	2	2	3	10	30	bought in 80's	n/a	4	1,2	8	vintage	2	silk	1	never worn
		1	jacket	4	3	3	10	37	from 70's	n/a	2,3	5	7	2nd hand	2	wool	1	been worn when I was 10 years ago. I've never had it since then.
		1	top	3	14, 10	1	7	3.5	3/4 years old	n/a	2,4	2	1	liberty's	2	silk	4	worn 200 in the summer again to a friend.
		1	short dress	3	13	4	8	6	6 years	n/a	1,2,3	5	5	market in Wales	2	cotton	5	worn and then 4 weeks, then 2-3 times in the summer.
		1	top	2	14	3	8	4.5	4/5 years	n/a	2,3	5	4	mumukshu	4	cotton	6	worn 2 weeks to 2 years ago. It's washed and never worn again.
		1	shirt	2	2	3	9	18	18 years	n/a	2,3	5	7	2nd hand shop	2	cotton	1	worn for 2 of the time, then 2 weeks ago.
		1	jacket	4	3	4	6	1.5	1 to 2 years	n/a	1,2	1,2,3	5	Oasis	3	leather	7	depending, everyday
	1	jeans (denim)	4	6	3	8	5	5 years	n/a	1	5	5	levis	2	cotton ea	6	never really worn	
	1	dress	2	13	4	6	1.5	1 to 2 years ago	n/a	3	5	8	vintage	2	synthetic, poly	3	for 1-2 years	
2		2	dress	4	3	3	8	7	7 years	0	1,2,5	5	5	topshop	2	poly mix	2	only worn to sleep, then 2 years ago.
		2	jersey top	2	2	4	8	5	over 5 years	0	1	1,2,3	5	villa	4	viscose	2	only worn to school, then 1 year ago.
		2	halter neck top	2	14, 1 + 10	4	8	6	6 years	0	1	2	3	Firetrap	4	cotton	2	been worn for 10 years ago.
		2	trousers, cargo pants	4	8	4	9	14	14 years	0	1	5	6	market stall	2	cotton	1	been worn for 10 years ago, worn a lot when I was 10.
		2	sweater	3	12	4	9	15	15 years	n/a	1,3	4	5	topshop	1	wool	1	been worn when I was 10 years ago. I've never had it since then.
		2	sweater dress	4	15, 4 + 3	4	8	5	5 years	n/a	1,3	4	5	5. principles	1	wool, pa, visc	1	worn 1-2 years ago
		2	cardi	4	8	5	7	3	3 years	n/a	1	2	6	primark	1	viscose	1	worn 1-2 years in the summer
		2	dress	2	2	4	7	4	4 years	3	1,3	5	5	mango	2	poly / silk	2	never worn
		2	jeans	4	6	2	3	0.33	4 months	0	1	5	1	D&G	2	cotton	1	been worn, changed from 10 years ago. I've never had it since then.
		2	jump suit	4	3	4	6	1.5	1 1/2 years	1. made more fitted	2,3	1,3,4	5	Zara	4	poly	1	never worn
		2	jeans/trousers	4	3	2	6	2	2 years	2. made more fitted	1,2,4	1,3,4	2	not known	3	leather	1	been worn because the belt had fallen off in the shop and I had to return it.
		2	jacket	2	4	5	5	1	1 year	0	2,3,5	1,3,4	5	Zara	2 + 3 (sequins)	poly	1	been worn because the sequins had fallen off in the shop and I had to return it.
		2	jacket	4	14	3	5	0.27	8 months	0	3	4	4	equation	2	wool acrylic	1	been worn, been 10 years when I was 10 years old.
		2	top	4	3	4	6	1.5	1 1/2 years	0	1,2	5	5	not known	2	viscose	3	worn 1-2 years ago
		2	skirt	4	3	4	0	7	7	8. mended the lining	2,3	5	5	gap	2	poly visc	3	worn every 3 months
		2	dress	2	2	3	10	30	bought in 80's	n/a	4	1,2	7	2nd hand	2	silk	1	never worn
		2	jacket	4	3	3	10	37	from 70's	n/a	2,3	5	7	2nd hand	2	wool	1	been worn when I was 10 years ago. I've never had it since then.
		2	t-shirt	2	4	4	8	4.5	4 to 5 years	n/a	1	5	5	gap	4	cotton	2	received wearing 2 years ago in the summer.
		2	trousers	4	7	4	7	4	4 years	n/a	2,3	5	6	TK Maxx	2	cotton, poly	2	received wearing 2 years ago in the summer. I've never had it since then.
		2	cardi	4	14 (4)	4	7	3	3 years	n/a	1,2,3	5	6	TK Maxx	1	cotton poly visc	3	worn every 12 hours. I've never had it since then.

favourite garments.

garments that are never worn but are kept

3	garments that are worn all the time	1		3	jeans	4	3	2	7	2.5	2 to 3 years	0	1,2,3,	5	4	kooples	2	woven cotton mix	5	more often in the winter
		1		3	dress	4	3	3	2	0.04	2 weeks	0	1,2,3,	5	5	zara	2	visc, acrylic, cotton, ea	6	
		1		3	jacket	4	3	3	6	2	2 years	0	2,3	1,3,4	5	zara	2	?	5	
		2		3	skinny jeans	4	6	4	5	0.92	less than a year	0	1	5	5	topshop	2	cotton	7	everyday then work, cycle
		2		3	shorts	2	14	4	4	0.5	6 months	0	1	2	5	ward denim	2	cotton poly ea	8	all the time in the summer
		2		3	t-shirts x 2 (nursing tops)		1 + 3	4	4	0.5	6 months	0	1	5	6	H & M	4	cotton visc	7	
		3		3	t-shirt	4	4	3	5	1	1 year	n/a	1	5		4. all saints	4	modal cotton	5	approx worn 7 in a month
		3		3	shirt	4	6	4	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	1	5		6. asda george	2	cotton	6	worn approx 10 times
		3		3	sweatshirt	3	4	3	4	0.5	6 months	n/a	1	5		6. H&M	4	cotton	6	printed by a friend
		4		3	jeans	4	6	2	6	2	2 years	3. fitted at the waist	1	5	1	current/ Elliott	2	cotton	6	On a week
		4		3	jeans	4	6	4	8	5.5	5/ 6 years	3. fitted at the waist	1	5	5	zara	2	cotton	7	wear all the time
		4		3	blazer	4	3	1	5	0.58	7 months	0	5	1, 2, 4	1	alexander wang	2	virgin wool	5	
		4		3	shirt	2	1	4	6	1.5	1 1/2 years	0	2, 3	5	5	Zara	2	silk	4	worn every couple of weeks
		4		3	jacket	4	3	1	5	0.83	10 months	0	1	4	1	rick owens	3	leather	8	every day in winter
		5		3	cardi	4	3	4	3	0.42	5 months	0	1, 2, 3	5	6	tk max	1	cotton	7	worn in a week
		5		3	cardi (long)	4	3	4	0	?	?	0	1, 2, 3	1, 3, 4	6	H&M	1	wool	7	all the time, has a hole in it
		5		3	blazer/ jacket	4	3	4	0	?	?	0	2, 3	1,2,3	6	H&H	2	?	7	wear 2 in a week
		6		3	jacket	4	9	3	9	10	10 years	n/a	1, 2, 3	5	5	M&S	2	wool mix	7	wear it all the time rather than a coat
		6		3	top	2	14	3	8	4.5	4 / 5 years	n/a	2, 3	5	4	mermeko	4	cotton	6	worn 1x week in 2 but since it is washed and ironed then it is worn again
		6		3	top	3	14, 10	1	7	3.5	3/ 4 years old	n/a	2, 4	2	1	libertys	2	silk	4	wear a lot in the summer approx to a fortnight
		6		3	jeans (denim)	4	6	3	6	2	2 years	n/a	1, 2, 3	5	5	gip	2	cotton ea	6	wear them approx 3 to 4 in a week
		6		3	jumper	4	9	3	8	8	8 years	n/a	1, 2, 3	1, 3, 4	5	clearance sample sale	1	wool, cashmere	6	wear 4 four days in a row
		7		3	dress	4	14 (13 + 3)	3	7	3	3 years	n/a	2, 3	5	4	kew	2	silk	5	rotated so approx twice every two weeks
		7		3	skirt	4	3	4	5	1	1 year	n/a	2	5	5	M&S	2	acrylic	6	worn approx twice a week
		7		3	jacket	4	3	4	3	0.42	5 months	n/a	2, 3	5	6	uniglow	4	cotton ea	7	worn every day
4	the oldest garments that they have	1		4	top/ cami	4	3	2	8	6	6 + years	0	2	5	4	reiss	4	poly / shiny	3	
		1		4	shirt	2	1	2	8	6.5	6/7 years	0	2,3	5	4	reiss	2	cotton	3	
		2		4	coat	1	6	3	9	10	10 years	6	3	1,3	8	vintage	2	cotton	3	not so often as in the past, often does not go with the other items being worn and very specific weather conditions for it plus on evening coat
		2		4	coat	4	11	4	9	14	14 years	0	1	5	5	punky fish	3 fake fur	poly?	1	not worn as have been banned by husband, worn occasionally in a student 18-22 in Edinburgh all year (hard to be cold)
		3		4	boob tube top	4	14 + 10	4	9	13	13 years	was a dress, when fed up of the dress cut it to become a top	1, 3	5	6	tk max	4	net and mesh, poly	4	approx 6 a year
		3		4	sweater	3	12	4	9	15	15 years	n/a	1, 3	4	5	topshop	1	wool	1	not worn since 12 years ago. Worn 6 non stop for 2 years
		4		4	coat	2	2	2	8	5	5 years	3	1, 2, 3	4	3	best	2	wool cashmere	2	worn 12 over the years
		5		4	skirt	3	13	3	8	6	6 years	6	2, 3	5	5	belgium department store	2	silk	5	wear 1 every week, gone with everything, always get compliments
		5		4	t-shirt	4	3	4	8	5.5	5 to 6 years	0	1, 2, 3	5	5	urban outfitters	4	cotton	?	
		5		4	dress	1	10	3	8	6	6 years	0	2, 3	1, 3, 5	7	2nd hand	2	poly	3	not worn for 2 to three months
		6		4	top/ tunic	4	14	3	9	12	12 years	n/a	1, 2, 3	5	4	white stuff	4	cotton	4	wear 4 a lot approx to a month
		6		4	cardi	3	12	3	9	10.5	10 to 11 years	n/a	1, 2, 3	4	5	M&S	1	wool acrylic pa	3	hidden out of line with, worn 6 approx to a year in the winter
		6		4	cardi	4	8	3	8	8.5	8 to 9 years	n/a	1, 2	5	5	M&S	1	wool acrylic	6	worn for 3 to 4 days then wash in a coloured wash and then wear approx a week in 2 later
		7		4	t-shirt	4	3	4	9	19	19 years	n/a	1	2	6	bay trading	4	cotton	4	worn 2 in a month in summer
		7		4	coat	2	2	2	9	12	12 years	n/a	2, 3	1, 3	2	new york industry	2	cotton	4	bought in a sample sale, worn approximately 10 in a year

5	the newest garments that they have	2		5	shorts	2	14	4	4	0.5	6 months	0	1	2	5	ward denim	2	cotton poly ea	8	all the time in the summer
		2		5	dress	2	2	4	3	0.17	2months	0	3	5	5	COS	2	cotton, visc, poly	3	worn once since buying
		2		5	t-shirts x 2 (nursing tops)		1 + 3	4	4	0.5	6 months	0	1	5	6	H & M	4	cotton visc	7	
		3		5	jersey top	2	4	4	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	1, 3	5	5	beneton	4	cotton	5	approx 3x a month
		3		5	dress	4	3	4	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	1, 3	5	5	beneton	4	viscose	5	approx 3x a month
		3		5	denim dress	3	06-Jan	4	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	1	5	6	primark	2	cotton	4	approx 3x total worn
		4		5	jacket	3	14, 1 + 10	4	3	0.25	3 months	0	1, 2, 3	1, 3	5	zara	2	cotton	7	everyday when a little cold
		4		5	shorts (denim)	2	6	4	3	0.33	4 months	3. fitted at the waist	1	2	5	zara	2	cotton	5	once a week in the summer, holiday every day
		5		5	Jeans	4	14	4	2	0.04	2 weeks	0	1, 2, 3	5	5	promod	2	cotton poly ea	5	worn 3x for work
		5		5	skirt	3	14, 11	4	4	0.5	6 months	0	2, 3	1, 3, 4	5	bic boc	2	poly mix	5	worn every week/ every other week
		5		5	top	2	8	4	3	0.42	5 months	0	1, 2, 3	2	5	monsoon	1	poly cotton	4	worn once a week in the summer then haven't recently worn
		6		5	dress	4	14 (9)	3	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	1	2	4	east	4	cotton	4	worn everyday on holiday
		6		5	dress	3	14 (6)	3	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	3, 4	2	4	east	2	cotton	4	worn everyday on holiday in the evening
		6		5	trousers	4	03-Jan	3	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	6 (walking)	5	4	rohan	2	poly cotton	1	not worn as need to shorten
		7		5	bra	3	11	4	2	0.08	1 month	n/a	1	5	5	M&S	2	poly	7	had to buy bra without underwire
		7		5	pajamas	3	14	3	3	0.17	2 months	n/a	1 (worn at home)	5	2	sweaty betty	4	pa	6	worn for a week or two and then washed
6	any garments that have had repairs, alterations and or customizations made to them	1		6	dress	4	3	3	8	4.5	4 to 5 years	4	3,4	5	5	miss selfridge	1	polyester	3	hand sewn amendments
		1		6	jean	4	6	2				4	1	2	3	super fly	2	cotton lycel ea	4	hand sewn amendments
		2		6	coat	1	6	3	9	10	10 years	6	3	1, 3	8	vintage	2	cotton	3	not so often as so build, often does not go with the other items being worn and very specific weather conditions for it plus an evening coat.
		2		6	t-shirts	any	any	4	7	2	2 + years	11	1	5		various	4	cotton	4	this is an approximation after the volunteer telling generally about chopping up her t-shirts
		3		6	t-shirt	3	4	3	7	4	4 years (old b4)	sleeves chopped	1	5	7	given by friend	4	cotton	2	hardly ever
		3		6	boob tube top	4	14 + 10	4	9	13	13 years	was a dress, when fed up of the dress cut it to become a top	1, 3	5	6	tk max	4	net and mesh, poly	4	approx 6 x a year
		4		6	jeans	4	6	2	6	2	2 years	3. fitted at the waist	1	5	1	current/ Elliott	2	cotton	6	2x a week. Approx 50 % of her garments have been altered/ repaired by her tailor at home in Portugal
		4		6	jeans	4	6	4	8	5.5	5/ 6 years	3. fitted at the waist	1	5	5	zara	2	cotton	7	never all the time
		4		6	dress	2	2	4	7	4	4 years	3	1, 3	5	5	mango	2	poly / silk	2	worn once
		5		6	skirt	4	3	4	0		?	0			6	H&M				missing data, need to go through the audio recording
		5		6	skirt	3	13	3	8	6	6 years	6	2, 3	5	5	belgium department store	2	silk	5	wear it every week, goes with everything, always get compliments.
		5		6	skirt	1	14	4	6	2	2 years	6 (added a hook)	2, 3	5	7	2nd hand	2	silk	4	wear every three months
		7		6	cardi	4	3	4	6	2	2 years	6 (added new buttons)	1	1, 3, 4	7	swishing	1	acrylic	4	approximately worn 1 in 4 weekends

7	any garments that need maintenance/ alterations to keep them in the active wardrobe	1		7	jeans	4	6	2				0	1	5	3	j brand	2	cotton ea	6	holes in catch
		1		7	trousers	2	2	2	3	0.17	2months	0	1,2,3	1, 2	4	reiss	2		1	needs the trousers buttoning up before wearing
		2		7	shorts	2	14	4	4	0.5	6 months	to make them smaller so they fit	1	2	5	ward denim	2	cotton poly ea	8	at the time in the summer
		2	no example	7	socks	any	any	4	6	1	1 year +	want to be able to darn the heels when they go	1, 2	5	5		1	cotton poly	5	this is an approximation after the volunteers talking generally about socks
		3		7	green shirt	3	8	5	6	2	2 years	missing buttons	1, 3	5	6	new look	2	poly	3	not worn very often because first button had off
		3		7	cardi	4	8	5	6	3	3 years	to get rid of the hole	1	2	6	primark	1	viscose	1	worn 2 times in the summer
		3		7	skirt	4	3	5	3	0.17	2 months	back split has been mended and needs mending again	3	5	6	H&M	2	poly visc ea	5	worn 6 already
		3		7	skirt	4	3	4	6	1.5	1.5 years	hole at split	3	5	6	H&M	2	poly visc ea	5	worn 15 weeks
		4		7	jacket	2	4	5	5	1	1 year	0	2, 3, 5	1, 3, 4	5	Zara	2 + 3 (sequins)	poly	1	not worn because the sequins had fallen off in the shop and they had appeared there
		4		7	coat	4	4	4	6	1.5	11/2 years old	3. and needs a new zip	1, 2, 3	1, 3, 4	6	H&M	2	mixed wool	8	worn everyday in the winter
		5		7	cardi	4	3	4	0	?	?	0	1	1, 3, 4	5	nightglow	1	wool	7	worn at home as cosy jumper, because of the hole
		5		7	shirt	4	14	4	0	?	?	0	2, 3	5	4	east	2	viscose	4	worn approximately once every 2 to 3 months, need to replace a button
		6		7	trousers	4	3	3	3	0.33	4 months	n/a	6 (walking)	5	4	rohan	2	poly cotton	1	not worn as need to shorten
		6		7	trousers	2	2	3	0		?	n/a	1	5	4	notify	2	cotton	1	never worn, need to shorten
8	any garments that might be disposed of in the next couple of months	7		7	dress	3	14 (8)	5	0		?	n/a	1, 2	1, 2, 3	6	primark	2	cotton	3	worn a couple of times, got holiday in the summer, button fallen off, and need to replace
		7	no image	7	tights	4	3	3	5	0.92	under a year	n/a	1, 2	1, 3, 4	3	faulke	4	?	4	got holes in the first week, but it remains in the right place
		7	no image	7	trouser	4	14 (animal)	5	6	1.5	1 nad 1/2 year	8 (but happened again would like more permanent solution)	2, 3	2	5	miss selfridge	2	poly	4	wear them 6 or 8 times in the summer
		2		8	dress	4	3 + 14	4	5	1	1 year	0	3	5	6	tk max	4	poly ea	3	pregnancy dress bought for an occasion only because she couldn't wear it
		3		8	trousers	4	4	4	7	3	3 years	n/a	1	5	6	new look	2	cotton linen	2	worn on holiday
		3		8	jacket	4	4	4	0		not known from charity shop	n/a	3	5	5	top shop	2		1	doesn't fit too big
		3		8	shirt	2	4	4	5	1	1 year	n/a	1, 2, 3	5	5	topshop	2	poly	1	never worn
		4		8	jacket	4	4	4	7	4	4 years	3	1	1, 3	5	zara	2	poly	2	not worn for a year
		5		8	cardi	2	2	4	8	4.5	4/ 5 years	0	1, 2, 3	2	5	gap	1	cotton	3	worn approx 2x a year
		6		8	turtle neck	4	9	4	10	20	20 years	n/a	1, 2	5	5	gap	1	cotton	1	never worn for over 10 years. A total of 10 garments were bought in a year that had not been touched for the last 10 years
		6		8	shirt	2	1	3	10	30	30 years approx	n/a	2	5	5	Laura ashley	2	cotton	1	bought in the 80's and stopped wearing around 85.
		6		8	dress	4	14 (11)	5	10	30	30 + years	n/a	2, 3	1, 3, 4	6	un known	2	cotton	1	only worn once or twice
		7		8	trouser	4	3 + 14	4	5	1	1 year	n/a	3	5	6	tk max	4	poly ea	3	pregnancy dress bought for an occasion only because she couldn't wear it
		7	no image	8	skirt	4	14	3	7	4	4 years	n/a	1	5	4	hoss	2	linen	3	stopped wearing 6 last winter, and it's a little big
		7		8	jeans	4	6	4	7	3	3 years	n/a	1, 2	5	5	gap	2	cotton ea	2	never really worn

8.2.7 Wardrobe Audit Info

	Interview 1	Interview 2
tops	30	15
T-shirts	20	101
Shirts	19	
jackets	10	
coats	5	16
camisoles/ strappy tops	30	
dresses	40	32
skirts	5	14
jeans	35	17
trousers	6	2
shorts	13	3
all in ones	8	
Knitwear		
jumpers	8	12
cardigans	2	3
sweatshirts/ hoodies	7	
total	238	215

Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5	Interview 6	Interview 7	My inventory
				6	6
20	30	27	20	9	22
9	4	7	10	2	10
1	16	6	5	1	4
7	3	6	7	4	3
8		11	6		4
19	9	18	7	14	21
9	4	4	8	4	8
3	6	3	4	2	7
4	16	5	4	3	7
	3	3	2	2	1
	2		0	1	
18	12	13	6	4	5
4	5	12	5	6	14
				2	2
102	110	115	84	60	114

8.2.8 Interview Transcripts

8.2.8.1 Interview 1. 1st Oct 2013 at 4pm.

Recording: 1hr 2minuits

At the interviewee's home in Islington

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 1: Sonya

So initially: it's almost...

Because to understand, how you wear your clothing it's always good to kind of understand a little bit about who you are, and what you do.

Er hum

And if you could just tell me a little bit about your, your lifestyle what you kind of do for weekends, and things like that and how your, clothing fits into that.

Yep sure...

What I mean shall I...

I'll build in to that, kind of work because although I'm between jobs it probably is quite relevant and also relevant to my interest I think, in clothes.

Yes that's what I thought.

Yer yer... so I was, or I am basically an agent, um of kind of, erm of tv presenters mainly

Yup

Um, and that crosses over quite a lot into fashion, fashion shoots, so I have a definite interest there. Um, and I know a lot of kind of stylists and people like that in the industry as well. So the great thing about that sort of job is that I can almost have one wardrobe ... that kind of goes across everything. I don't have to have a work wardrobe and then a weekend wardrobe. Urn, and I will buy clothes where I think, that will do me, for so many things. like which can often be quite, not quite plain but you know quite universal... sometimes erm so I don't think I'm that adventurous. Erm... in my, no I'm not really I'm not someone that's going to really go for it I, I don't stand out loads, but I like to fit into a situation and particularly with work, I am very conscious that, you know the first impression you give is very important, erm so sometimes I would have to dress for say five things in one day, and you need something that's going to work for all of those. Maybe I would change shoe or a hand bag or something like that but id try not to have to change the whole outfit unless its like a black tie thing and then you can't get round it. So I like a jacket. Jackets are good. erm and I also (arh this is useful yer...) I dress from the feet up so I'll literally [giggle] lie in bed or the shower and I'll go right what have I got to do cause if I need to be in flats, if I know I'm running around, I'm like I need flats

so I'm like fine what will go with those flats so I dress from the feet up basically. And go from there [laughter].

That's a really useful...

I know people that go what? well yerr well it makes sense to me... [laughing].

I think from that... so when you are working do you predominantly? it is it in an office? or do you work from home sometimes? how does it....

Bit of both, but it is predominantly in an office, erm and its out and about as well because we will be out with clients a lot, so a lot of photoshoots, filming, lots of meetings. So I can be kind of be racing around, but predominantly London based.

Okay... erm and then kind of moving on. What are your main reasons when you are going shopping what? What are your reasons for buying a garment? Such as kind of...

God anything can make me buy something. I try not to... I actually try not to go shopping if I don't want to spend money because I will always find something, that I will wear. I think that generically like if I am just going ok I need a few bits I often buy... I live in jeans and tops I, I just do and so I think tops, Its think ok and that's good for work and its good for this and that.

Yep

So I do try to buy things that tick more than one box definitely. Erm, and again I'll get a lot of dresses kind of more day dresses cause they can be really good, and some of them go from different seasons you can wear with a tight or without a tight, boot or different shoe. So I think, unless its something I fall in love with and go right I'm buying that for that occasion, then I tend to buy things quite generically... And I do buy a lot of the same things I think I know I've got that already but I wear it I wear it a lot. Shirts... I like a shirt, as well.

Okay so... from that how often do you think that you buy clothing or go shopping?

Erm, I almost want to say that I shop permanently, because I will shop online I mean even in my inbox [email] is just full of daily updates on various fashion sites, its kind of impossible to ignore, erm I kind of shop around my lifestyle so I don't I very rarely go right it its Saturday off I go. Its more like in-between meetings, out and about in town. It's kind of a permanent thing actually.

So do you think you might buy something once a week or... or

When I'm working probably ... it would probably average out at that, yer it probably would, I think...

And then would you just buy one thing at a time or would you tend to buy in bulk...

I can do both. Erh I. I will also be a bit of a season, you know I know sort of come September you know the new stuffs in I know I will need certain things, so then I might do a bit of a bulk buy, but again its quite generic stuff like jeans and tops its not like things I love. Its all sort of like the same so yer I will buy bulk yer more often that I would buy a one off piece.

Okay... And then can you remember how many garments you bought in the last six months?

Oh dear God, that's a concern. [laughter] especially when I'm not actually working. But I don't actually want to tell erm no no no no I'm joking, don't worry don't worry... erm do you know I was actually because of your questions is your three newest things I was trying to work out what were the three newest things six months would take me back to its October so that would take me back to march is that?

Yer...

Pretty much. Erm its really hard cause I've had holidays so I've bought for holidays. I would have bought some summer stuff for holidays. But not expensive bits actually. I would say in reality maybe around 30 garments. I hope I'm not underestimating there, but I don't think so.

Erm okay, that's fine. Brilliant. Erm and then what kind of brands, retailers or shops do you tend to go for...

That I like? I tend to mix and match a bit. So I from the high street I love Zara. Who doesn't? But it doesn't last, but I do like it. Erm I and this is I actually love whistles but I can't wear their stuff it doesn't work on me. Unfortunately. I do still like Reiss I think their stuff is slightly better made and it does last better, erm what other kind of high street haunts erm All Saints but it's a bit pricy. Topshop. Erm and then I will if I am going to spend money on something, erm, then I was quite lucky because of my old job I got a lot of gifts from clients so things like Isabel marrant stuff and...

(I love Isabelle Marrant)

I know, I know.. [laughter]

Isabelle Marrant and Vanessa Bruno are my two.

Yer... and they are both amazing, and I am quite lucky because I got gifts for birthdays and stuff I'll miss that, so I would, maybe I would buy a stand out thing you know and I would make myself buy boots I will always buy say a pair of Acne boots and say right I'll have them. For like the whole season, but I think if I spend more money it's on a very key piece. But then like J Brand jeans I still like but they go at the top which is one of my items that I could do with repairing. Find that they really go here J Brands.

Yer the crotch... just a patch or something to hide it from everything.

I know I know...

Erm and then this just a little bit of a... do you ever buy vintage or second hand?

Yer I do yer I do... I mean I don't find the time, its not something that I'm a regular kind of vintage shopper, but but yer and I love it when I a friend of mine actually owns a shop on Portobello road, erm like vintage /second hand so yer I have a nose in there and...

It takes more time though doesn't it...

It takes more time yer and its and I think people who are really into that are very experimental. Not experimental with fashion but they are maybe a bit more diverse than I am. I play it quite safe I've got to be honest. [laughter]

When you are buying a garment, you've already touched on this a little bit but what things do you consider, well before you purchase it such as; do you think about the price, the fit, whether it goes with other garments or...

Yer, always how much I will wear it.

okay

Always. Even dresses, I you know, you might buy a dress for an occasion and its nice because its new and you want to feel special but then I sort of have a mind set now where I used to spend more money on a one off dress and you feel amazing in it, I'd actually rather spend money on something that you are going to wear all of the time. Hence shoes because you get so much wear out of them so I definitely consider wearability I definitely consider price, and if anything the price, has to match with how much I'm going to wear it. I don't mind spending if I think its worth it, and I definitely go through phases where I think oh no ill just get these because its cheaper and then I get annoyed because things don't last, and then I almost think that I wish I spent a bit more. So I go through phases really.

So you don't ever shop from like Primark or anywhere like that or...

Do you know I don't, and its not like I say I don't ever, ever do it but there's an ehthi... I'm mixed on this and I don't know enough about it but I always just feel like how can they make clothes that cheaply but then who's to say the other brands aren't doing that we are just getting all mixed up ripped of as a customer.

That's the problem...

I know so

And even I sometimes don't well, having worked in the industry for many years I've worked at levels, which is high street and the same factory produces for designer, so its really difficult to be able to...

To call it but then Primark particularly are so cheap.

Exactly

And I just think how can it be that cheap? I also to be honest I think you know I'm not, I used to I used to go to TKmaxx you know and I had a different budget you know going back to being a student or you know or what ever and a different budget, you know like yer you wanted to get more of a bargain now I haven't got the patience to sift through stuff, so for me if I'm walking into Hennes or because that can be a bit of a mess depending on the store I can be quite put off by something, and Primark for me I haven't got the patience for this this.

I think I'm very similar shopper to you cause I get to a stage where the queues so long even if I want to buy something I will walk out.

I just do it and put it back.

Same, same so will I. I'm just going to grab a tissue out of my bag. I've got a tail end of a cold.

Oh no

No it's fine

Erm, so we've already mentioned that you, you don't really have a separate wardrobe for different occasions you kind of mix it all together.

Yer, yer I do which I actually prefer, because it means I get more wear out of the whole wardrobe really.

Erm, ok and then I suppose this is trying to find out what you've got. Do you have, where do you store your clothes? Do you have one...

Do you wanna have a look or shall I just talk you through it what's easiest for you?

Erm maybe we leave that question and we will come back to it when we are upstairs.

Yer yer, erm yer I'd like to store them a lot better than they are at the moment cause I've only moved in recently but we can go back to it. [laughter].

Erm what are your reasons, when you get rid of a garment do you have a specific reasons for...

For getting rid of. If I don't wear it if I've been through a whole season if it's a summer season and I haven't worn it, or particularly if it's something that you tend to only take on holiday with you cause you, you take your best bits. If I'd just been on holiday and I hadn't taken it with me then I don't wear it so I try to be quite ruthless. Try, being quite operative there because there's still some things that you keep, but erm, yer if I don't wear it it's got er go

Okay.

Cause even if you think that might come round again it doesn't because when it comes round again it's always its slightly different so it there's no point in keeping hold of it cause I haven't got the space. Anyway.

Erm, and then what do you do with it? Do you bin it? Take it to charity shops? ...

I can't bin anything. I cannot, I just it's just. Actually funnily enough, I should have got it out of my car, cause I just moved I had a clear out, so I have like 3 separate bags, some of which I am like, no one is going to want that like nobody, the charity shop couldn't sell it so then I'll take it to the tip cause they've got a clothes bin.

Yer

There's also a shelter near where my mum lives that's like a women's shelter so I think even things like towels and sheets, I just cannot throw it away. You can't throw it in the bin.

Yer

Erm so charity shop mainly er erm but yer either the recycling for clothes or the shelter for women.

Cool. Erm and then how often do you then kind of get rid of things do you think?

Probably once a year realistically, although I've actually moved quite a lot in the few years so it's sort of forced my hand a bit which has been quite helpful.

And do you get rid of quite a lot then?

I yer. I've got like three bags of things and I've made myself be ruthless actually, with it. The other thing is when you asked what makes you get rid of something if I'm gono buy something new, and its clearly replacing something else then I have to say to myself, you know why are you buying this over this because if you buy this you are not gona wear that one so do you need it ? And if you do need it then you have to get rid of the old one. I try to do a bit of a swap around

And then when you said three bags are they bin bags?

Yer, bin bags yer...

sorry that was just to get an idea of the size.

Yer no thats ok.

Then this is going on to how much you sew. In your email you said that erm that you had basic levels of sewing experience.

Yes probably, I used to dance when I was younger so probably the best example is being forced to sew your ballet shoes, because you have to be able to do it. Used to take me forever, and in fact so much so that the last pair, I only did one foot in the end because you sew the front.

[Showing me the ballet shoes spoken of] yer that one.

Oh beautiful

You sew the front because so that they don't rip that's the whole point so you have to be able to do a chain stitch. I couldn't even be bothered to do the other one, that's how much I couldn't be bothered. [laughter]

They're gorgeous

Yer there lovely.

Do you mind if I just take a picture

Not at all absolutely so the / really I've been forced to you know we learnt a bit of sewing at school, I'm talking junior school here.

Yup

Erm and then forced to kind of have some basic, skills. But I mean yer.

Quite a

Its all I can do is a hem to be honest, but I will do a hem sometimes. But I'm talking about I've got some bits out to show you as well of my, technique

Erm, and how do you feel about, have you ever used a sewing machine? Before?

At school years ago, I'm now 37 so a long time ago. Erm. I used to have, to be fair I had like a kids singer, you know a little plastic one, so I think I definitely always had an interest in it but I just have no skills.

So did your parents sever sew or anything? Or did they...

Again, I think my mum and I are quite similar because she erm, again had an interest, she had a sewing machine as well, and I always remember this story because she had lent it to a friend and she newer got it back and she was always so annoyed about this sewing machine, but it always made me think you don't use it. I mean my mum is not someone that, you know I think she would love to have been making pillows, and curtains and stuff but a bit like me all she really did was hems. And forced to do my dancing costumes and the pair of us would sit there and wonder what we were doing with this? don't know? [Laughter] yer I don't think I get any natural skill set from her. Sorry mum. [Giggling]

So, so from all of that, erm just... I think that you have mentioned that you've done hems erm you've never really done darning or.. well you've done kind of shortening and lengthening of things,

Yes and that would be classed as not really darning but I suppose you could say darning the front of it but its not darning in the sense that you are repairing something you just do a chain stitch into the, well you see how that one has ripped cause I haven't done it.

But that must be such hard work anyway because its so solid.

Yer its paper mache so you just have to go through the satin at the front, and obviously not through the actual

Yer yer

Shoe. Yer it takes ages.

Sewing buttons on...

Buttons Ill do buttons, yer...

Patching?

No I haven't really, I'm sure I could. No

Alterations and size

Erm no, no god no. I couldn't do that. I used to years ago I just remembered this I'd like. Id do things like make a pair of shorts you know its easy you just sew that and I would want to use the rest of it so I made a scrunchie years ago (laughing) and a bag to put these shoes in which I still have. I'm talking about, I'm going back to being about 12 here. I cant believe I've still got it really and that is out of an old pair of trousers.

[looking at the bag] I really oh look I've done that on a sewing machine, so that must have been my old one that I had as a kid. Cause I've never owned a sewing machine is that a sewing machine? Or by hand?

I think it's done by hand.

Oh yer look and I've even put my name in it. Oh how cute I've only just (laughing) oh actually that's reminded me about something as well about my mum one thing she could do is chain stitch hence being able to do something and she used to embroiderer, you know when you had to put your letters on your school kit

and stuff. She used to embroider our initials in, really nicely so its one thing she could do actually so I think, yer it's a good point I didn't think we could do anything technical but actually, there's an ability to sew.

You can do something

Yer.. *Erm and have you ever customised anything?*

Not that isn't just taking the length up of something. I mean I have, to a degree like I've had a dress that was, long, and then took it up I decided to make the front a little shorter than the back. But that's not really knocking anyone's socks of .

Erm is there... well we've kind of talked about this. Is there anything that you have done to try and extend a garments life?

Yer, I'd try to but then I'd sometimes its just hold on to it and then I would never get round to doing it. Particularly if it's something you love. And I don't actually, see that's the other thing like I'm quite cautious about how much I wash clothes. I don't I don't mean it like that because it sounds wrong because obviously certain things you obviously want to make sure you wash your clothes, but if its something particularly delicate I will maybe avoid wearing it so that I don't have to because I know I think it really effects the longevity of items. I don't wear, I try to be careful when I wear stuff.

Okay and I think those ones aren't necessarily... so we can go on to erm the garments that you have manage to pull out.

Cool shall we go up.

[walking up the stairs into the volunteers bedroom]

I still need to search for some (laughter) yer you are going to see my storage issues right here right now. So now I'm I would like you and I know obviously sit down or do what ever you need to do. I would like you, I have had great difficulty with wardrobes. Now I have a rail they are going because they don't work in here

And then you have got a cupboard.

So I've got a rail there and what I need is a trunk or something to go here. I'm also going to get a trunk downstairs for all my shoes in. So really all the problems I have here is literally storage for clothes and shoes and people go to me I cant believe how many clothes you've got . I don't think its that bad but. Anyway the piles. [laughting] so go for it.

Can I quickly take a picture of just a... well it doesn't really matter. So you have got that and then just this one as well

Yer at the moment.

Its just so that I can kind of gage.... Cool

And then I should, well there clothes in all of these as well to be fair, so you might want to get that as well. Id have to say if I lived here with a boyfriend. Well he'd just have to find somewhere else for his clothes wouldn't he.

Exactly.

Exactly, exactly [laughing]

Put them in the car... erm, cool so I think from that we are going to look at erm your favourite garments.

Definitely this which was mentioned an Isabelle Marant dress. which I love can you believe that these little studs come off. And its not cheap and they come off. Look its bad isn't it.

Really bad. I must admit that I've got two pairs of her trousers and the buttons fell off the first time I wore them.

Yer see she's doing a range for H&M the 14th November its out

I know

I'm like putting it in my diary (laughing) that is bad (looking at the missing studs) yer its like a shirt dress. Yer this is probably my favourite thing actually, and its so easy to wear.

Do you think you have had that for?

I've had that for a year because it was bought as a gift for, er my birthday last year so literally a year. And it needs to go to the dry cleaners.

And do you wear it all through the year?

I do its great cause I can wear it on holiday in the evening, I can wear it in the winter with tights. which is why I really like it and that's, cause my friend like I said she bought me this too [an Isabelle Marant cardigan] she I she basically gave me a budget to spend in Cricket in Liverpool [street, London] my friend owns it. One of my clients. And I've picked things that I knew I would wear a lot because like this I wouldn't spend that kind a money on stuff, so I'm like at least I wear it so as well which is also Isabelle Marant and I love that. Actually that etoile range, I think yer.

and erm so would you say you wore that about once a week or something or?...

Erm probably not no. Because I'm quite careful when I wear it because I just think, again its wear and tear isn't it, and I think its something that will last for a long time. It's quite timeless. Erm even though it's not the current season for her but erm I don't mind but I still feel love stuff like that. So I've probably worn it, it would probably average out at about once a month. But I think when I first had it I wore it quite a lot and then...

[Referring to the cardigan] and this ones about the same age as well is it?

Yep it's a year old as well

and again do you how often do you...

Well its winter so I haven't had it on for a while, and actually doing this made me go oh yer that cardigan its nearly cold enough to wear that exciting stuff.

Erm, what I will do before you put them away

Yep

If I just take a picture of each one, I'll just do it like this, and then that can be a bit of a memory jolt for me.

It needs dry cleaning cause I wore it on Saturday night. It's really hard when you have to pick your favourites, of things.

Bet it is, so I haven't actually I didn't try that one for myself. [meaning the process]

Anyway does it say in there? —*[looking at the compositions of the garments]*.

It might actually not, oh here you go... and then

Erm so I was like its so hard with favourites, well those were stand outs, thats probably because they're sort of some of my higher end items...

Yerp

That I loved and yet again I think I only loved it so much because, because I know I spent money on it. You know, oh, I don't know what I've done with it, oh its there, but then I kind of, its so hard because I wana say; well I love that, I wear that loads, I've had that for so long and I could still wear it. So its really difficult but then I guess I would never get rid of that dress and I don't wear it much now its an Acne dress but I just could never throw it away.

Why do you think...

Because I think it was the first time id really spent something, much money on a dress and its hard to give it a good indication but on, its really lovely and it comes..

Its stunning

Its like a little Alice in Wonderland thing and I just think, I just never get rid of it and it feels really lovely its all boned and no its lovely isn't it arh... I don't really know what my favourites are cause I wouldn't wear that now probably but then I just love it I do just love it. As a dress

and does it hold good memories for you as well?

Yer definitely and I always felt great, I just feel great when I wear it. actually I was at a black tie function and I was walking up the stairs and Joanna Lumley was behind me and she said I love your dress. I was like wow thanks, thanks, Jo

Cool

So maybe I should, yer I should probably yer its more exciting than those two playsuit options which I love too.

So how old do you think that acne dress is?

I got that about four years ago, I think.

Erm. Do you want to talk about any others that are your favourites? Or do you think?

Erm. I mean only to say that I clearly like a playsuit, and generally a pair of shorts. Otherwise you could just go on forever couldn't ya.

And then what do you think your relationships are with your favourite pieces?

I think its about how you feel when you wear them isn't it? and its interesting that all of the ones that I've picked out are the higher end of my wardrobe, as in I've spent money on them. I definitely have a relationship with between what I've spent on something and how I feel when I wear it definitely

And you mention that the first two are gifts as well

Yer and its cause that's special, in that I wouldn't, I personally wouldn't spend that much. Cause I couldn't afford to spend that much on it. And I often have this kind a conversation, particularly because I shop with you know a lot of clients that do have budgets in that area, and because fashion such a big part of what they do, and they have to look. I often say to myself even if I had that money could I spend that much on a garment? I'm not sure I'm not sure, so I sometimes struggle to spend a lot of money on it but then I never regret having done it. But then I'm quite selective about what I buy if I do spend money. But I definitely even like cheaper stuff that I might love as a top but you know I've only just bought that and I love it you know ill wear it to death, and then it will die and I will go and it will just go and I wont care. You look after the more expensive things.

Yer

I think...

Erm... Okay. So do you have any garments that you never wear anymore but you've kept?

Yer, now that I was trying, I was struggling a bit with that one, and that's partly because of having just done a clear-out and being ruthless. So I did have, and you know I realised they were, erm. in fact there must be some dresses [looking through her rail] dresses basically its dresses. I think you know if you've bought a dress maybe for a function you sort of think oh I really like that. I never wear this, I'm not going to wear this dress and its only Topshop but then I'd probably keep it, because I think well what if I've got a 60's fancy dress to go to? It's absolutely perfect. I definitely keep things for fancy dress purposes, and I lend stuff to friends, as well. Even though I've done a clear out I'm probably looking at five or six dresses here, that there's absolutely no way I'd wear again now, so why am I keeping it? Why am I keeping it?

So the Topshop one, how old do you think it is?

God. Right I, was... at least seven years old. Jesus...

And you haven't really worn it what for the last five?

The last five? Yes absolutely. The last time it was worn was by a friend of mine for a fancy dress party.

Cool.

Erm. What other bits can I think that I've got, that I think I... its dresses I've got probably some other dresses. do you want? Do you need a picture of that? Or are you okay?

Oh I could quick... I'll take a quick one of that. But then I suppose you've got your ballet shoes and things like that because do you still, dance?

I don't yer, I don't know, only when I'm drunk

Do you come home and put them on [laughing]

When there's people here there like oh put them on. That's a really bad idea. But go on then, so then I do [laughing]. Erm so yer I would never throw those away absolutely, yer that's a good point does this include shoes... I should have asked you that.

Erm ideally not. But I think. I think the ballet shoes, because they probably hold quite a lot of personal memories...

Oh God yer, absolutely. I yer I danced until... I'm a qualified dance teacher actually, I don't do that anymore, but so I couldn't ever get rid of them, yer, I just wouldn't.

So are they almost...

What how old they are, they or...

Would you class them more as more as something like a picture or something like that?

Yer.

Mementos or...

Yer. Completely. Yer yer so sentimental.

So saying that's why you've still got them.

Do you know I actually put them there because what am I going to put on those hooks and then I realised I still had all of those, but oh yer its completely sentimental because its so... I think when you dance its so hard to get to the point where you are able to dance on your toes, that all the pairs there are the shoes I ever had that going up to the last pair which I can still just about wear, so you just sort of yer its more like a memento than a fashion item.

Oh so, do the first ones have ones that you wouldn't have been able to stand on your toes....

Yer you'd have flat ones, and you have to build up to, to that you have to get through all of the training in order to get to that point and you would never get there until you were about sort of fourteen, fifteen cause you need the strength within your legs. Erm, and then they go soft so the reason why you go through so many pairs is that cause the paper mache moulds to your feet which is great and then they go soft over time, so then you need a new pair. I know [laughing].

Erm, okay so now, to go into garments that you wear all the time.

All the time, I didn't really get out massively but I think things like, well this is a black kind of... almost with a bit of a leather look jean actually. I live and die in.

Do you know who they are by?

Oh these are Kooples, I like Kooples. Actually of course Kooples, when you were at the beginning when you said brands that I like. Oh and I missed that And Other Stories. Which I love, have you been? Do you know? Its lovely and other stories. Such a good... really good for staples.

I think there by, erm H and M...

Yer it is yer...

Cool... and then how long do you think you have had those for?

These... at least two years. a bit more than that two to three...

And do you wear them all of the time?

Yer I do cause I can wear these for work, with like a brogue and like a shirt and then I wear them out with a heal, and a like a vesty top. So they are just a really good fit. They are like a crop but they fit the leg nicely they are good fabric, they have hardly, well I've had them nearly three years and they are still black.

And how often do you think you would wear them? Once a week? Once a month?

Erm, probably once a week really... yer in the winter I was wearing them more than that.

Cool... thank you.

Other things I wear all of the time this is probably an example of, I will always have a seasonal black dress just casue they are so handy for work. I mean that's new but then, this is an And Other Stories one .

yer

Which is more summery because they are just so good for work and you can mix and match with different things. Black dresses always.

Yer and you can dress them up and down really easily.

Exactly. Necklace, boots, heals. So stuff like that if I see something like that I'll just get it. Another one like this was in the Reiss sale haven't worn it for years but that is, for certain meetings its great, so yer black. I wear a lot of black. Loads...

So the initial dress, do you know who that ones buy?

That one is... Zara, And Other Stories and then Reiss.

Oh I will just do the Zara one. How long have you had your Zara one?

Literally a couple of weeks

And how often have you worn it?

I've already worn that one about four times. At, least. Do I wear that Kooples stuff, I mean Kooples stuff is expensive.

And you probably wear that in the winter, well the, all year round wouldn't you?

Yer probably apart from summer you could get away with that in spring, winter. Autumn certainly.

It's a knit.

I would actually get that in another colour if they do it because its so wearable and it wasn't expensive.

It's a mixture of all sorts of things isn't it? Acrylic, I don't know what else it says,

Erm, let me see we are looking at the wrong language, possibly.

42% viscose and acrylic.

Yer, viscose, acrylic, cotton.

Cool. Erm, and then did you have any others that you wear all the time, that you think you wear all the time?

Um... what did I get that out for? Erm yep, erm probably the best thing to give you would be a jacket cause I just will, I mean I've got like, it's a hard one though cause my leather jacket goes with everything. That's more outerwear, isn't it?

Hum...

But certainty, well I've got. Oh this is a good one, another option. That cause it just goes with absolutely everything.

That's another Zara one

Yer, its Zara but theres... There jackets cut really well actually, but then I've got Kooples jackets too, I feel like I should give you my upper level stuff, but this is black.

no. if wear it all the time,

I do

Erm how old do you think it is?

Erm, um um um. Its funny I know exactly when I bought it so I can always work it out. I bought it just before Cherie went of to thingy so that would have been two years ago, I think. Yes, it was two years.

Erm...and do you wear it all year round? Or...

Not summer because it's a bit heavy for summer, but other than that yep. And I wear it for work, and you can put it over dresses if in the evening.

And then through kind of autumn to spring would you, how often would you wear it?

Well with work that's at least, at least once a week probably more than that .

Ok brilliant, and then. So do you have any. Is it just practicality the reason why you wear these things all the time? But also they are all the same colour, they are all black is...

it probably is practicality erm. Cause I always think it think again its based around sort of work and trying to dress for a lot of things in one day, and I do think, clothes say a hell of a lot on first meeting. So its how much importance do you place on that. Clearly I haven't left the house today so I'm like well its fine but I think there are certain things that you know will work for certain situations so yep practicality and just feeling like your dressing the way you want to be dressed for the situation. Yep.

I, I forgot to take a picture of your jacket sorry,

It's alright. Its okay.

Cool thank you. Erm, and then garments that you have had for the longest.

It was another really tricky one. Erm I got this out to give you an example of my technique by the way I don't know if im jumping the gun here. This was the one that I said I went up higher at the back actually and customised this. This is my I only went halfway round, maybe its because I ran out of time. I'm sorry am I going to far?

No, no, no don't worry we can do that one first.

Right the longest this one I really struggled with this erm, the longest and then not wanting to throw away. Erm. I'll have a look; well I have t-shirts things but erm. This I've had a long time actually. I haven't actually worn, this is interesting, erm actually yer thats good. Where's that. Interestingly enough they are both Reiss actually, well they are quite timeless. I must have had this top for, easily six years. Its Reiss, and I still wear it all it is, is really like a posh t-shirt.

And do you still, you don't really wear it anymore..

Do you know I will still wear that sometimes, it's a really good like staple you know if I'm struggling and I'm in a rush it kind of works with everything, this as well I cant, I don't loads its only a white shirt but its still really good quality, it needs an iron. But its really held up so I'm sort of like yer you know I feel like I could pull that out every year and you no now and again.

Is that erm Reiss as well?

Its Reiss yes.

I'm sorry you said that you've had them for six or seven years.

Yes both of those I got around the same time yer.

And again you would wear it.

Yer I might still wear that. Maybe like, once or twice a year?

And what the same? No I think more for the

A little bit more for that. Maybe three, no because that would be once, no three times a year maybe.

Cool thank you. Erm, then I suppose we go onto your brand new ones, your newest garments.

Well the newest garments, so I was just trying to be kind of. Well this is one again Zara but I got this in Parma, its just a little jacket nice on.

So when...

I got that this summer, so literally a couple of months, if that, a few weeks ago.

Erm.. and how often have you worn it?

Already about three or four times.

Cool

Erm, yer this is a tough one cause there are a few things I don't know if you just want to make a something I've got a couple more Zara tops, which are much of a muchness they're all new, er jeans are new, some reiss trousers, which I haven't worn, cause they need taking up so they might be a good [giggling] option.

And are these all about two months old?

Yer ... in the last couple of months and then those shorts I got as well which are And Other Stories. In the last few months.

So I'll just quickly take pictures of them all. These are really nice [Reiss trousers].

Cute aren't they, they were in the sale. They don't work at all unless I take them up [talking about the reiss trousers]. I haven't done it yet. Erm... what else did I have, just those? Its good that I ironed them isn't it.

And have you worn most of these other than the trousers, a few times...

Yep theve all been worn. A couple of times at least. I mean they're much of a muchness the top but, that's quite wearable that.

Yer, that can be worn with anything.

Yer... which is why Zara's quite good.

Erm and I'll just quickly take these two [photos] because I keep missing them out.

Thank you. Erm... ok cool. So to go back to your, erm... Miss Selfridge dress.

Yes, my wonderful technique.

How often have you worn it then?

A lot actually. Yer I've definitely worn that well I've had that ... a good few years as well, I must have had that a least four or five years. And I would have worn it maybe ten times?

And you just tend to wear this in the winter? Or is it erm...

Erm, no both, done in the both, probably more summer if anything actually.

ur hum

time for time er..

and how do you feel about what you have done?

[laughing]

you can't actually see it.

No.. it think I did quite well didn't I. erm its ok, yer I mean God, you wouldn't want to put it through under any er strength testing would you? Cause it would just come down. [laughing]. I think with that it wasn't hugely expensive, so I'm like if I'm going to go and get it taken up. You know it sort of defeats the object a bit, so I'd just prefer to do it myself. These are quite good cause I these were super fine jean which I did spend money on and they used to be a kick flare, and I've had them years, and so I just cut them and copped them basically.

Did you make them narrower as well?

No. I literally just took them up. That was it just the hem.

And Super fine, and how often do you wear them?

I still wear them now, because I've taken them up so I'll wear them, well they're more of a summer jean.

And how often do you think you would wear them?

Erm... God its hard with jeans, cause you just... I wear them all the time. I wear them all the time jeans. So... they don't work massively in the winter so in the summer a good kind of you know, two or three times a month probably.

Cool.

Maybe also take these, up but I actually need to take these in. don't bother with those, to be honest I cheated, I wanted to wear them so I just.. I'd sew the edges up and then I'll go and get them taken in properly. Cause they are actually Kooples and they should be done properly. [laughing] before I ruin them.

Erm. Do you have any garments that need , need something doing to them before you can wear them or that your...

Yep, I have checked... these are my JBrands and I love them and I still like the leg on them and I cannot wear them cause look at the state of the top, so I'm kind of deliberating whether or no to keep them or to throw, them at the moment.

And how often did you wear them before?

I loved them. Erm, God I just wore them all the time. Like, a few times a week probably. And obviously I've got those trousers as well that, I can't wear until they're taken up.

Cool, erm... and then, any garments that you have that you are going to dispose of, you've just got a few bin bags full.

Yer so yer, a few and that's just a mixture of I've just done a clear out. Yer [they are in her car]. And I've tried to be quite ruthless about what I wear and what I don't wear. In fact with the lack of space every time I came across something that that I didn't wear I was thrilled I was like, yes I don't need this. Thank God. [laughing]

Erm then I suppose the last thing that I was going to do was to try and count how many things you've got.

Yep, ok.

That might be a bit complicated just because of...

How its done?

You've got them all over

Yer..

I don't know whether if I just, if you just try and think about how many

Well I can give you an idea anyway and here you know if you think about stuff I've got one two, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Eight jackets

there's like 10 jackets.

10 jackets erm, about how many jersey tops do you think you've got?

God, I mean I've got them all under here jersey tops and I've got loads of t-shirts, like I love a t-shirt, not that we've mentioned them. But its hard to know [opening drawers] this is all tops so they're just sort of more t-shirts slightly dressier and then vest tops.

Do you think I've got too many clothes?

No, [laughing] it's however many you feel happy with. But what do you think just probably, about, what, 30?

Yer erm, they've got to be piles of what, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, - oh my god theres 10 in a pile there.

So theres 40

There's 40 tops in that drawer probably,

40 tops

and its not even all of those its not even everything, I mean there t-shirts but then I've got long sleeved ones under here and then I've got sweatshirts and then I've got jumpers...

So they're more jersey tops and you've got t-shirts under here.

So there more, what are the options? See jersey tops... [Looking at chart] oh I see so jersey tops

May be they should just be tops so t-shirts you've got probably about 40 and then tops approximately... how many of those?

I reckon okay so I would split those into two I reckon actual t-shirts maybe 20 and then tops if I include sort of vests you could go to like 30 on that I reckon.

Erm shirts

Shirts, I like a shirt 1,2, 3, 4, 5... 6,7, 8, 9, 10 ,11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 in my hand 18 that I'm wearing that's ridiculous 19.

Ok. Coats [laughing]

Anyone would say to me there's no way you could wear all that [laughing] that's insane. Yet apparently I do. Coats are downstairs; we can go down for those.

We could probably do those at the end

I can probably do a bit of a guess actually because the ones I wear include that doing jackets separately. Yer ok. Its all coats its like a winter coat. I've got say 2 macs, a leather jacket and I've got 2 winter jackets so go with 5 there.

5 . camis, strappy tops, evening kind of toppy things.

Ok.

Or where they part of the tops?

A little bit so we can kind of, even with that I mean camis. I've probably got a good 30 of those I reckon.

30 on top.

Yer, yer. Dresses....

Dresses

Loads, loads, I mean from there to there are dresses. There are I can see it. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12... 21, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 so yer what too much, I've actually lost count of it. There are some in here as well.

23 and then you had a few on here as well so you've probably got

Yep I've got at least another 5 here actually.

So 35 at least...

No wonder I'm struggling to fit my clothes in

Skirts.

Not massive on skirts. I'm going to come off well here. I've got 2, 3. 3 skirts and I think that's it. Oh know I've got a long one 4. I don't do skirts very well weirdly, 4 skirts maybe 5 I've probably forgotten one.

Ok jeans...

Oh dear god. Oh god, ok, I've got a whole drawer full so, 7, 8, so that's probably 10 so 20, 30

30...

And then I've got some here as well, so probably 35. Yep.

trousers.

Trousers there's not loads of trousers, there's those 2, which we've looked at and I've got ones like. I've got some kind of, erm then I've got like a kind, of like going out kind of slinky pair and then another 3 another 6 there.

Another 6. Erm, shorts...

Like shorts [laughing]. does that include playsuits?

I've got a playsuit, all-in-ones as a separate one.

Oh my god

Because that's been...

Feel awful, this is quite good process by the way. Look shorts, so

Shorts, there're all in here

1, 2, (they haven't got a home yet) 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and there's some on there, and then there's playsuits probably 15. Oh sorry.

I just, sorry, being really....

No don't worry its fine.

Sorry you said 13 shorts. What and then are the playsuits on the other side?

There's some I've got kind of different playsuits I've got like evening ones and then beachy ones. You see I've even got, I don't know what's wrong with me. I've even got a hang around the house playsuit, and you know as you do, just a hang around the house on holiday playsuit. I mean that I might, jamas even. I mean that's two playsuits

And then there was another one; you know you had a couple out already.

Yep three, 4, and then I've got another one there 5, plus I've got erm, that's a play suit 6, 7 then that's 8, eight.

Eight playsuits.

Which is totally normal isn't it. There's even more dresses in there that we haven't allowed for because there's summer dresses. Actually another 5 dresses.

Ok knitwear then,

Knitwear. That's in one of those. Erm. I've some in here. Yer so I, I haven't got loads because its hard to store, or I try to really limit it. Two big cardigans like that [holding one up]. I can do a bit of a thing in my head, erm, yer I try to quite limit jumpers and stuff. I think this one they're in. knitwear and sweatshirt, there's some in the other one as well so let me have a quick look through. 2 big cardigans, that jumper got hood... you see I even like a hoody, look there's 2 jump... I'd forgotten about that one.

Maybe we should do....

1, 2, 3, I've probably got I reckon about 10 on knitwear.

Including the cardigans as well?

Yer.

And then for sweatshirts, kind of hoodies, you've got a couple?

Yer I've probably have about seven maybe?

Cool and then have you got any other garments that we haven't really...

No.

Thought about? I think that's most of them.

Bikinis? That's probably the only thing we haven't touched on.

I think I will leave bikinis out.

Yer I would if I was you [laughing] because there's enough going on.

But that's brilliant thank you very much.

No not at all, not at all, I mean any, yer anything else you need. Shout and I'll just.

So you've probably got about 200, is that right, just quickly totting everything up. If not more.

If not more. No wonder I'm struggling.

[whispering] just don't find a boy.

If I do find one with big wardrobes [laughing].

Thank you so much...

No not at all, not at all. Its erm... its great, just talking about clothes aey. [laughing]

I've created a bit of a mess for you.

Oh know don't worry, well I to be honest I had nothing, things didn't have a home as it was so. Oh, dear. So yer from here...I guess yer I will wait to hear from you with....

8.2.8.2 Interview 2. 15th Oct 2013 at 12pm.

Recording: 1hr 14minuits

At the interviewees home in Islington

Interviewer: *Emily Towers*

Interviewee: participant 2

Right, erm so I suppose to begin with, could you just let me know, why you decided to volunteer for this study.

Erm. The fact that I do have, quite so many clothes [giggling] and erm, not a lot of them get used I am guilty of, erm, buying things that I don't need, and, not mending things that I should. And maybe just flinging them out. Erm, and I just really would like, also the opportunity to sort of learn some skills to do that. I can sew on a button. But anything more complex than that, I once bought a sewing machine as a student and I couldn't even work out how to operate it or turn it on [laughing] so I was just like so that's just going to gather dust in the corner.

Do you still have it?

Oh somewhere, it's an ancient singer thing. I have no idea even if it's got all of its bits. You know, so yer just to learn a bit more about it, erm and even just sorting through my clothes this morning and I was like, oh yer I'm going to have to streamline a lot of this, hey, so I'll have to trundle off to the charity shop a few dozen times.

Oh no!

Yer

Erm, and then just... I think you have already mentioned this on your email erm which age group do you fit in? Are you the 30 to 34? Or...

Yes, yes.

Erm, and then tell me a bit about your lifestyle. Erm, so its to understand, I suppose your clothing habits and how, how what you wear fits in with what you do. So I suppose what you do on an evening, weekends and obviously you are not working at the moment [on maternity leave] so I suppose that's had a big effect on your...

Yer , yer, changing body shape.

Habits

[laughing] erm its quite a big one, so at the moment. Er living still in maternity style clothes just cause they are nice and stretchy. Erm style is not [laughing] a priority erm I think yer it is mainly er practical things that I'm comfortable in cause I'm bending, stretching, lifting, er a lot of the time. Comfortable shoes, that sort of thing. Erm, but... Erm, yer, and of an evening if I do go out I'll try and... basically its whatever fits still amongst my old clothes. Erm that, say even any old dress I'll fling it on simply cause I can't wear dresses when I'm looking after her cause I still need to be able to feed her.

Yer

So it's all sort of practical considerations. Erm when I'm not being a mum and am planning to go back to work I've got a uniform and its all sort of outdoorsy gear so I tend to, I used to an I intend to hopefully spend, erm weekends and evenings with a more casual, formal type , well smart cas...

Yer

Feel just cause I work in polo shirts and hiking boots and fleece tops and stuff like that so its just the chance to glam up a little bit when I'm not working. So that's the plan.

Erm and do you want to get your phone?

No its all right, I'm not expecting a call.

Okay. So prior to your maternity leave what kind of work where you doing then?

I was training guide dogs and erm matching them to clients and training them together, that involved a lot of all weathers kind of work and a lots of walking erm,

Sounds like great fun.

Yer, yer, well the thought of going back I'm really, really excited by but its trying to balance it cause that's all quite all consuming work. Trying to balance it with this goblin is erm yer, everything is still up in the air. I would love to go back. And do it.

Would they be quite flexible with you do you think?

Erm, they are... they are trying to be flexible, but, because we do need to have a, such continual input training the dogs its sort of, they're arguing that its, you need to work a minimum of five days, erm... and I'm thinking I reckon I could do it in four.

Yer.

So it's a matter of getting everyone up to standard. But I know, we'll see.

So its going to be hard but that would be erm. Would that be just predominantly just wandering the streets then or would it, it, its not based in an office at all.

We do work out of an office, so there's erm. It gets, typically you get three dogs at a time so when you are at work working one dog then the other two are in the office.

Okay.

And then when you are training with clients, then you do work out of their homes or have them all in a hotel if they are quite spread apart. And then that's all like full, full time like 21 days solid until they're up and independent. So

Wow.

Trying to manage that with er... this one [laughing]. Not worked it out yet but there is an answer. There's an answer to everything. It always works out in the end.

Yer. I suppose they wouldn't accept you having one guide dog at a time, just training it at home?

No. That would work ideally, erm if I was a part time worker, which would be I don't know. At the moment they've just introduced a policy which is five hours spread over five days. Erm, then I would have to two dogs but to me that's not really part time. [laughing] because its still full time childcare and I'd have to put in extra there's always extra hours anyway which, I'd love doing but erm yer...

You've got other priority's...

Yer. It's a novelty [laughing]

Thank you. And then I suppose I'm going to go into your general, and all your shopping habits which I suppose it might be useful to have what they are now and what they used to be as well if that's okay.

Aha.

okay so, what are your main reasons for buying a new garment?

Erm, at the moment, it is... erm. Lets see I've not bought, well other.... I've only bought one thing really since, no that's a bit of a lie. I've got a couple of nursing tops, and so practicality's for motherhood really. Erm... I bought one dress as like a smart thing to change into of an evening on holiday

Erm

Erm, but purchasing clothes for me is a bit. There s not really much of a reason or it at the moment, especially as I'm hoping to change body shape again. In the other direction [laughing]. Erm so yer, its not erm yer, clothes not really. I still indulge in to odd shoe and handbags purchase but its mainly it there. Erm... before I guess it would be erm... oh I don't know just anything for a treat, really get the opportunity once a fortnight or once a month to head out to the shops to do a bit of window shopping.

So it's more the occasion really...

Urm.

And if you found something that was great and it didn't really matter or?

Yer, I just well if it was the right size and a reasonable price and I hadn't spent too much that month then yer, just sort of threat myself really. It's it didn't matter whether it was it id find something like a hole in my wardrobe like I don't have any jumpers for the oncoming winter or something

Yes.

Then I'd go specifically looking for that but its not very, not terribly directional. [Laughing].

And then approximately how often do you buy new garments, would you say?

Oh now I say, once every 3 to six months. I really haven't gone shopping at all since she's come along. But erm, before I'd say once or twice a month.

And then, if you were to make a purchase during a shopping trip. How many garments would you tend to buy in that one trip?

Erm, do you know anywhere between one and four?

And I suppose you've already semi answered this, but how many garments do you think you've purchased in the last six months. You mentioned a dress and a couple of nursing tops.

Yer.

So three, erm...

[baby screeches] The next Adelle! [laughing] I tell her, indulgently.

You never know.

You never know.

Erm. Do you want to talk about them anymore or I suppose, are they just quite basic garments?

Oh they are very basic, well one of them's here the other ones are just like plain black nursing tops that would go with jeans or anything and that dress is what I bought to go on holiday. Just simply because its not fitted and yet on it doesn't look like a complete tent .

Okay. Erm, and then what brands, retailers, erm... independent shops, erm... would you normally buy from?

Erm... I guess standard high street. Oasis, Wherehouse, erm... Topshop, concessions. Erm, that's from Cos but I've never bought anything from Cos before. I just walked past it in Westfield. Erm... I'm trying to think where else I buy clothes from, H&M every now and then, er, gap, though I'm a bit confused about the ethics of that so I try to minimise my spending [laughing] in their shops

Yes they do a very good job at hiding what's going on.

Hum...

Erm and then do you ever buy second hand clothing at all or vintage?

I erm. I used to quite a lot but not quite so much I think because I used to have the time and the patience to, to have a proper dig for something erm. Every now and then I'll still like pootle along to erm a vintage market that I see advertised but I've got to have the time and the energy really to do that. But nice, there's a really lovely erm vintage place, on Camden passage called the... What is it the fat cat? Or something like that its got a blue cats face on a yellow background, and erm that's really set out really nicely like a proper boutique, so its, you don't feel that your like rifling through a load of dross to get to find something.

Yer.

So I'm always looking in there. And then yer, coveting things until I'm back to a size 10. [laughing].

Erm, and then when your purchasing a garment, what elements do you consider, such as price, fit , quality...

Erm. Yer all of those erm... Colour, I think that fit, I go through phases of buying something that's completely unlike my taste, cause, the number of times I open my wardrobe and I say oh I haven't got a thing to wear and that's cause I always buy things that are in my taste so I figured out that if I buy something that I would never normally wear then I can't open my wardrobe and say I haven't got anything to wear because I have a diverse style of clothes. That just means I've got twice as many clothes as I should have though. Erm

but erm yer, like flattering garments erm... I avoid, erm... avoid snake skin and reptile skin like the plague. Erm, functionality, [laughs] always buying waterproofs, always, always, always.

That's going to be interesting for a later question. [laughing] Erm. And then would you consider that you've got a separate clothes wardrobe for different occasions? Such as work or casual or...

Not occasions. I've got my dresses and some of the, higher quality things hanging up in a wardrobe . erm... jeans of which there are many, and I need to cull are folded underneath. And t-shirts and stuff like that are all in a drawer, and all my sports gear and work gear are kind of shoved in a separate chest really. They're not, yer but its all kind of casual, and fancy and stuff are all thrown in together.

But you wouldn't consider that you've got a separate work wardrobe to a casual...

Oh the work one is, well that's all logoed so...

So you do have. And then what are your main reasons for getting rid of or discarding a garment?

Erm, age if they've been in my wardrobe forever and I've not effectively got, had any good use out of it. Erm... stained clothes, er... ripped clothes, or even clothes that I've simply never worn and I've just kind of realised that I don't know what I was thinking when I bought this and I'm pretty sure that there's someone else, on the charity shop run who would much more appreciate it than myself.

Erm... and I suppose, what would you do with the garment when you get rid of it?

Yer, always to the charity shop.

Always to the charity shop.

If they've been ripped or stained I do tell them about it so [laughing] so they don't get a nasty surprise, oh sorry but...

They can always use it. Erm and then how frequently do you discard garments? Would you say...

We've got a bag that lives in our kitchen that gets filled up over a space of months and whenever one of us, me or my husband can be bothered to, take it down the shop, then we'll go.

So what maybe once every three months would you say?

Yer, roughly.

And then how much do you think, or how big do you think the bag gets?

Maybe erm, you know those hessian bags for life, maybe a couple of those.

But this is including your husbands and...

Yer he rarely gets rid of things though. He's a bit more erm, sensible with his purchases and clothes use than I am.

But I suppose the little one... she must be the one that you are getting rid of the clothes the most at the moment.

Oh, were not. I'm a bit of a, I suppose I am a bit of a hoarder really, erm I've not gotten rid of any of her clothes yet. Erm partly cause we think there might be a second one coming along at some point erm, but erm yer I've just not got organised enough. It's all just in the bottom of a wardrobe. All her too small stuff

Okay so the bags tend to be predominantly your clothes.

Yer.

Erm, and then I think we touched on this a little bit, erm to go through your sewing skills how much experience do you have? I think you mentioned that you can sew on a button.

Yep.

Erm and then how confident are you about using a sewing machine?

Not at all.

Have you ever used one before?

No.

Erm, and then I am just going to go through a list and you can tell me if you have ever done any of these things and how you feel about them...

Yer sure

Erm have you ever done any darning before?

Nope.

Erm, shortening things, like trousers, or anything like that?

Nope

Patching?

I might have once at school. And it was probably very cack handed. But I no doubt wore it with pride.

Erm slight alterations in size, I am presuming not [nod to indicate agreement]. Repairing tears?

Erm yer, once in a blue moon.

Re-seaming broken stitch work? [Shake of the head] Erm lengthening things when they are too short?

No.

Re-sewing buttons?

Yes

Erm, invisible mending?

No, I wouldn't even know what that was.

Major alterations.... I'm assuming no. Customising things?

Oh I'll cut stuff up.

Okay, erm and then what do you hope to gain from these workshops?

Erm I'd like to know how to darn, I would love to know how to, operate a sewing machine, and I have no doubt that those are skills that will come in useful when I have to make her little outfits for school and Halloween and what not. Erm, and erm, yer just focusing, on that sort of skill will hopefully change my, erm attitude, to clothing and I really need just to streamline and not spend as much. Well the cats not going to stay if you scream at him now is he Clem. She's yet to learn.

Erm and then what are your main constraints to mending, such as time, skills, equipment, confidence, things like that?

Er... think motivation, and behind that is lack of skill. So because I know that I will probably make a rubbish job of it, and it would take for ever I'm not actually inclined, to do it and we always find something more pressing to do.

Erm... and then is there anything that you do, or have ever done to try and extend a garments life?

Er... not personally, well, I don't know, if something's, I'll layer, I'll layer up [laughing] if some things got like, a stain a tear or something or, I don't know its coming up to small then I'll stick another top underneath it, or over it, or I'll try and do that. I've taken shops, I've taken clothes to the lady at the laundrette she does alterations, erm... Oh I did, I sewed the buttons onto this coat. [Laughing] cause I bought it in the market

years ago and it had chipped buttons, so I took all of those buttons off, and bought new ones. But that's about as adventurous as I've ever been. This will sound so pathetic for someone who's worked at such a high level as yourself...

No not at all. Erm, and then I suppose what would you do if you found a garment with a hole in it?

If I found a garment with a hole in it? I suppose it depends. Like what in a shop or a?

Oh I suppose one of your own.

Argh one of my own. Suppose it depends how much I liked it. If it something that I'd sort of, my tastes had changed or you know I never really liked it anyway sort of thing then I don't think that I'd bother investing the effort to mend. If it was an old faithful then I'd make the effort to try and extend its life.

Erm, and then if we just go on to I suppose to looking at the garments that you've pulled out for me. Erm. Erm, so your favourite garments.

Ok favourite garments. Erm... oh Okay, I really didn't know what sort of thing or whether there is a right or a wrong answer or anything. Erm... but I do love that, bit animal centric. My life is revolved around animals, its really nice and baggy and it sits well on the hips. So erm...

Erm, and how old would you say it is?

Oh, three, four years old maybe? I don't know.

Three or four. Erm and how often would you wear it would you say?

Erm ill go through a phase of wearing it solidly for like a week and then realise that everyone that I know has seen me has seen me in it, living in it solidly for a week so I wash it and tuck it away, and keep maybe. Maybe go back to it a couple of weeks later.

So almost every three weeks you wear it for a week.

Yer.

That's really good. And would you wear it all year round?

Yer.

If you don't mind could I take a picture of it I'll put it over...

Sure.

There's no right or wrong answer for your garments at all. Everybody's so different

erm... there's a couple more. Didn't know how many you wanted for each either?

Oh, just up to three is fine, just to get a gauge of...

Erm... really, Okay. So that cardigan. Purely for the bustle bit.

So why would you class that as one of your favourites?

Erm, that cardigan goes with anything. Erm... and, I've always had a flat bum. It's quite wide but there's just nothing to my bum. I've always wanted like a big bubble but, so erm that gives me a little bit of one. I think its quite feminine. Obviously when I was pregnant I'd have just been over egging the pudding so this has not seen the light of day for a little while. But I still adore it. I put it on now and again and think right that's taking the micky so I'll just put it away again so yer.. there's that one.

Erm and then how old would you say this was?

That is 4 years old. Cause I bought it, I've never heard of her, and I... we where in New York I think, and we popped into a random boutique, and stumbled across that on a sale rail.

So what kind of price level would you say this was?

That was, mid price level.

mid.

There were some nice, silly expensive things in there, its amazing what some people charge.

Its absolutely crazy, erm... do you wear this all year or?

Erm... yer I have it on hand all year like throwing over a summer dress and stuff.

And how often would you say you wore it?

Erm... pre-pregnancy at least once a week.

That's a really good buy.

Yer, yer really good. And this one hardly ever gets worn, but I adore it.

And why, why is it one of your favourites?

Erm.. just you know, a bit sparkly without being ostentatious. It's super flattering, and. And just a bit, a little bit different from anything else in my wardrobe. Its got the long sleeves and, you know when you dress up and you don't necessarily have to, be flashing a lot for flesh to sort of I don't know... its quite...

Do you wear it as a dress? Or a...

Yer as a dress. I like how a simple garment can be so deceptive.

Maybe nice and warm as well.

Oh I just remembered an answer to something. you asked me earlier about what I what dictated whether I bought something was. erm... cleaning I will try and avoid dry-cleaning things, dry-cleaning garments. And that's when I realised I was old. [Laughing] no body thought about that in their 20's. you'd probably be glad about that, I don't know.

Yer its true. I don't really dry clean anything. It goes in the washing machine or I hand wash it. Erm, how old would you say this one is?

Erm... you know what I would say in the same region, about three or four years. I work it for a, a work do a couple of years ago.

Is that the last time you wore it actually?

Er, I erm I popped it on with a view to wear it for a wedding the other week and my husband went... erm... do you have spansks? I thought right okay not time for it then. [laughing] that's just painfully honest, but hey.

Erm and then when you do wear it what time of year would you wear it?

Mainly winter for that one. Although the fabrics quite thin its really quite warm.

Erm... thank you so, almost. What do you think your reasons for favourite garments are?

Erm... I think things that are flattering. Erm... so hiding, hiding the tummy. And accentuating a bum, erm, I've noticed that with a couple of the dresses that I seem to have accumulated upstairs as well... erm, I think diver.. do I mean diversity? So things that I can wear, erm... at anytime with anything sort of thing. Or truly beautiful pieces. You know when you go... I'm never going to wear this, but it's just so gorgeous.

Erm. And then we move on to the next one. Garments that you never wear but you've kept.

Erm... This is a prime example that I'm constantly getting out of my wardrobe and putting, like trying on, but I never, I never wear it out, I just take it off again.

So, why, why do you keep it?

Because it's essentially a really nice, top. I think. And I'm convinced that there will be a time or a way that I can wear it, in a, now I'm just in denial. I am in denial.

And how often would you say you've worn it?

Maybe once or twice and its many years old, many years old.

So many... more than five would you say?

I'd say over five. Er... I will see what else. What are we on? Things that we keep...

But don't wear.

Erm... erm, a halter-neck thingy.

So why, when was the last time you would have worn

I would'nt have worn that for maybe four years ago or more .

And why have you kept it?

Erm... I think its really pretty, erm. Yer I like the back strap that goes around the back of the rib cage awith a couple of buttons and its just a nice ... gether. But I suspect that I am a little bit old for it I deffinatly don't have the figure for it right now. Erm, yer I should probably let that one go.

Erm and how old would you say it was?

I think maybe up to six years maybe? Er.. I think I do have to tell you I do have a complete warped sence of time and er... theres are the best gestemates.

Er that's fine. [talking about the cat and baby] Erm and then would you say that one of the reasons for keeping this is for memories, that itreminds you of certain times?

Not really. Just I remember exactly wher and when I bought it and who I bought it with but I think that's more the garment and I was uming and aring about it at the time. I'm glad I did get it but maybe I just need to let it go.

Ok and then did you have another...

I've no idea why I've held onto these. I think possibly because I don't have of trousers I've only really got jeans in my wardrobe. And they seam to be quite practical and but they are ... they must be 14 years old . and I could'nt even tell you when I last wore them. God 14 that's a whole person old.

It is gosh!

[laughing]

did you used to wear them a lot?

Yer. Yer I did.

And can you remember who they're by?

I just got them in a market.

So sorry , did you use to wear them a lot or...

Yer.

And then, what maybe five years ago you wore them last?

Oh no longer.. I should think. I was a very slim 18, 19 year old and then again in my early mid twenties. I wouldn't have worn them for the last ten years maybe.

Okay and then do you feel like you have any specific relationship with them? Because you've kept them for so long.

Not really. I think it's my. Unless something is very, very obviously never, ever, ever gong to be worn.

Uh hum.

Then I'll get rid of it or maybe, maybe some sort of hormonal rush of culling everything, but that's just never fitted into either category, it needs to though.

Erm and then to go on to another on. Garments that you wear all of the time.

All the time. These jean, legging things I wear all the time.

Are they called jeggings?

erm...

just jeans...

skinny jeans.

And how old do you think they are?

Oh these are less than a year cause I wore them, yer.. I wore them in pregnancy. They're er Topshop maternity type jeans.

And then how often would you say you wore them?

Pretty much everyday and then I'll fling them in the wash when they become too filthy to...

Uh hum

To be seen in public with them. Erm and yer I'll fling it in the wash then I'll whack it on in a few days.

So constantly.

Yer pretty much.

Erm.. and is that just because its comfortable?

Its yer they re comfortable, durable, colour goes with pretty much anything. And yer they can be dressed up, dressed down. [talking to the baby] you can borrow it off me when your 14

That's another reason for keeping lots of clothes. fancy dress boxes.

Yer. I always thought that I wanted a boy but now I realise that she will actually care what my wedding dress was like. That's quite cool, a boy wouldn't care.

Actually my mum was just going through, our fancy dress box, and well my brothers the youngest and he's 30.

Oh really. Are you guys are all wanting to keep stuff or are you wondering maybe that should have been done a little while ago?

Done a little while ago.

Arh. Lets see what else do I wear all the time... the thing is that I've just put a wash on cause it was I was wearing them all the time..

Erm

And to be kind of t-shirts and things. Erm so I wore these all the time in erm during the... summer,

So are these ones quite new?

Yer they're very new, there within the last six months. Yer they were erm, yer, size 16's the fact that I was wearing something non maternity I was quite happy by it but the 16 upset me a little. But there's nothing wrong with that Clem.

And so. Would you say that you wore them everyday in the summer?

Oh yer Everyday. I lived in them.

It was really hot wasn't it

Yer. And those would also fit into the category of ones that I would like to find a way of making them smaller so that I can get more life out of them.

Okay. Erm and then your others I suppose, you mentioned yurt shirts that are in the wash.

Yer again theyre the same nursing tops erm like from H&M or really cheapy, not planning on having them make up my wardrobe for the rest of my life. They suit me at this time now.

Erm... what colour are they?

Oh. Black or plain white.

And are they quite new would you say?

Er yer I bought them when she was born. Maybe 6 months or their abouts. Can I get you another drink or anything?

I'm fine thank you. Cool erm and then I suppose the garments that you've had the longest.

Okay I've got, I've got this one which I've had well maybe not the longest but it is the oldest. Because it's a vintage piece. Erm.. I do have some thing absolutely hideous that that I was going to bring downstairs that I've had for the longest. Do you want me to get that?

Erm okay do you want me to hold?

Its okay she can come with me. [going upstairs] oh!

It must have been quite a bit of effort this morning getting through everything...

That's all right. She went down for a nap so I had plenty of time to... so that is probably as old as the combats so...

So about 14 years? Erm and then I suppose do you still wear it?

No my husband has banned me from wearing it. But its so, so comfy and its got very, very good memories associated with it.

If he had'nt banned you would you still be wearing it?

I don't know. I'm in my thirties now and I'm not sure I wanna be that mum.

Erm so you've kept it more for the memories rather than for anything? And when did you wear it most?

So. Between and 18 and 22. It was erm, yer we studied in Edinburgh so it was perfect for student life.

So would you have worn it all year round then in Edinburgh?

Yer.

So snuggly, and then to get an idea your purple, I'm sorry your turquoise corduroy, how long ago did you get that do you reckon?

Erm... it must have been about 10 years ago. Erm.. just under the westway. Where the westway meets Portobello road there stalls there aren't there, that's where I got it.

And do you still wear it?

Erm... not as often as I'd like. I think because it is such a bold colour that often that chance is that its clashing with something ill be wearing. But it's the sort of thing I'd wear of an evening like going out. And its not hugely warm so it needs quite precise weather conditions [laughing].

So kind of spring and autumn.

Yer.

Cool erm and then did you have another garment? That's quite old or was that about it?

Erm... none that I can think of.

Okay.

Only tracksuit bums and things like that. And ancient knickers and bras...[laughing]. But nothing.. yer, individual.

Okay, and then to go on to the newest garments I suppose we've got the dress that you started to tell me about.

Yep, and the shorts are in there with the newest as well.

So six months,

I would have thought for six months this one I must have bought within the last two months

Okay and how many times have you worn it?

I only go to wear it the once.

Erm and then suppose the other new ones are your two t-shirts as well.

The nursing tops?

The nursing tops.

Erm hum, Erm. That's going to be awfall to listen back to. [laughing] the screeching.

While I'm typing away... erm, and I've lost my. Erm have you got any garments that you've made any alterations on? I think its just form what we were speaking before its just your jacket.

Yes the jacket. Like old t-shirts I'll cut the sleeves and the neck off. To like turn into running tops but,

Erm and then have you got any garments that need maintenance or repairs were already we mentioned the shorts?

Shorts and, thats about it. I was throwing out socks where the heels gone in them but I suppose the larger garments, no not at the moment.

Okay, erm and then do you have any garments that you are thinking of getting rid of? In the next couple of months?

Erm, that one. And I'm sure that there are a few of similar description which is: when I was pregnant and I needed something to dress up in, that fitted no matter what it looked like, if it covered me then I'd buy it I don't know, all of those Christmas parties and stuff.

That was smart and that you could wear at the time.

Urm, so I got that for erm the Christmas new years eve kind of season, cause I simply had nothing that fitted over the bump.

Okay and connected what kind of level is connected then?

Oh that was a TKMaxx job.

And have you just worn it the once then or...

Maybe two or three times there were winter weddings and,

Erm so what is it about?

Oh dear nearly a year. Its difficult to think about life before this little demon came into my life and created havoc. A most welcome demon, but...

Yer. Ok brilliant erm you mentioned that you've got I suppose a wardrobe, have you got chest of? Where do you store all of you clothes?

Erm, I've got yer, one wardrobe er, two drawers erm and then those are the clothes that I particularly wear like underwear drawer and what ever and erm ive got a separate sort of stand alown sort of chest with seasonal stuff in so at the moment its got jumpers but I need to get those jumpers out and put other stuff away.

U hum,

Erm and then I've got a couple of drawers in the spare room of like sort of sports kit, and tights randomly I have a whole drawer of tights. It's quite bizarre.

They take up a lot of room.

I don't want to put them with other stuff cause they'll end up just tangling so they have their own little space where they apparently find mates and breed because there are hundreds of them

Erm would you mind if I did a quick count of all your garment, would that be okay.

All my garments? Okay, alright, yer. Absoloutly fine.

Erm it can be almost a gestimation, I suppose to gauge approximately how many you've got of things so tops, shirts, jackets and coats. Which is why I was interested when you said you liked raincoats.

[laughing] oh I don't know where they're all stashed. Another another wardrobe with coats in.

okay, cool

arrgh your going to be horrified and you're going to judge me [laughing]

No I'm not, , I'm not at all, you should see my room. Its terrible.

Right.

I suppose we don't have any storage space, that's the issue.

I think that because we moved, we moved from a tiny one bed place

Urm

To here. No I'm not great at throwing stuff away at all.

It's a hard thing to do really I think.

Sorry there is,

Oh im sorry im making you...

Oh God no don't worry about it. So

So what do you have in here are these your coats?

2,4,6,8,10.... 12, 14 coats and a dress up cape.

I suppose we've got two coats downstairs.

Yep.

Cool

Er and er and well this is the random tight drawer

Oh I don't need these.

Jolly good. Running gear and stuff like that your not interested?

Erm I suppose you could just give me an approximation of your sportswear.

Yer so maybe oh I don't know, six Capri pants or and tights, couple of pairs of shorts and I suppose up to ten old t-shirts that have been hacked up at some point.

Thank you.

Right, oh my husbands been putting aside lots of shirts and things with rips and nicks in then saying when you learn how to mend...

You can mend my shirts.

Yer Pretty much. my 1950's wife. Here we have a... so mainly this drawer here is predominanlly tops there isn't much order at all.

Okay

I don't know even how to start counting them.

Do you want me to start having a rough go. Otherwise I could just is it better I've got some weighing scales?

Well if we say eight tops in this little bit mulitplyed by six maybe,

Yer ...

That doesn't seam right, theres more than that.

I'll start this end.

43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 roughly I think.

So just over a hundred.

Oh theres every thime I go to a gig I have to buy a t-shirt. Those don't get worn.

The gig t-shirts. So you mind if I just take a picture of them? Just to get a random, so I can see how many you've got. So we've done some tops, shirts do you have any shirts?

Not really. Maybe there might be one or two in here. This is the other wardrobe that I was telling you about. Yer ther are aa hotch potch of knickers and

So this is a mixture of I suppose smart tops and and dresses is it?

Yer dresses, skirts tops cardigans erm theres a stack of jeans underneath. And ...

That's 13 knitwear. 13 tops, skirts...

They're vaguely ordered, possibly [missing because of baby's squeal].

Are these two yours as well?

Yer these two are mine and from the red hangers beyond are my husbands.

Are they both dresses and trousers?

Yes.

Cool erm, so its just jeans that I suppose are also in here.

There's one pair in the wash.

[counting in the background]. Fifteen sets does that sound about right? Plus two. Erm shorts, have you just got the one pair of shorts?

I might have another couple randomly mixed up with the erm jumpers.

Erm, do you have any jackets at all?

Erm.. I suppose I've got a couple of jackets that I've sort of lumped together with the coats.

Erm and then, any other jumpers or anything? I suppose this...

You can tell I don't have very much time for tidying can't you.

I think you've got a very, very full time job.

Erm, ok jumpers, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, oh that's 10, I recon ten to twelve jumpers, maybe.

Yep. cool erm... and then shirts if I, I'd have just counted those in tops I think. When I was going through the wardrobe.

I had a few short sleeved collared type but my erm chest is larger than the rest of my body and always has been so I've tended to avoid shirts.

And then I suppose the anything... you don't have any all in ones or anything like

Not realy.

Cool, well thank you very much, that's all of those questions

I am going to have to have a cull.

And then do you have to have anything in your bag to get rid of at the moment? Or...

Maybe two or three items.

Thank you. Our things are all over the place and ewe are in an endless battle with moths

Oh yer, yer got.

Oh thank you so much for your time.

Its been really interesting...

The only question I suppose to finish of with I suppose is is how.. what we have been talking about how do you think that might have, or what do you think its made you think about?

Er... just my wardrobe is excessive and looking through like clothes that never worn, simply never worn, and yer I need to streamline everything, be a bit more sensible.

Ok thanks very much

Your welcome.

8.2.8.3 Interview 3. 15th Oct 2013 at 3pm.

Recording: 1hr 14minuits

At the interviewees home in Islington near Archway

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 3: Caroline

Right okay, so. First of all what made you decide to volunteer for this, Name? or what are the reasons for volunteering?

A few different reasons I'd say one because I am not really very good at sewing or I'm not really very experienced at mending clothes, and I want to learn. I like, the idea of erm being able to reuse things and, I've given a lot to charity lately and I'd rather use the things I like. Erm and I wanted, I thought it would be something different to do because I'm very focused on my music and spending lots of time doing that so I thought it would be nice to do some kind of alternative activity.

Cool erm, and then I suppose I already know that you are a musician, but if you could you tell me a bit about your lifestyle about what you do on and evening, weekends and things like that just so that I can understand how your clothes fit into your lifestyle really.

okay. Erm... okay well I don't have work clothes as such.

Yep

Erm.. but I have stage clothes which get the most use, I would say... and they're usually the biggest reason for buying new clothes as well is for new things to wear in public appearances on stage basically you know. Erm and I kind of dress quite casual so I wouldn't say I have that much... I don't have that many clothes for going out. But I do obviously go out in the evenings and weekends, but I don't have much of a routine, is basically what I'm trying I suppose, yer my... every week is very different and I can be away for a whole week or ... working on weekends rather than on the week, and but then I'm at home working a lot when Im not away. I don't know if that makes sense or?

No it does completely... and then you've said that you are a musician, are you classical or a...

Er... what would I say? I'm a singer, songwriter.

So I'm presuming that your stage clothes will be quite similar to what you wear anyway.

Yer

Not that different.

No, Not really. There's a difference but...

Your not wearing all black or...

No its not a uniform. Yer its stuff id wear out actually.

Erm...

And in the day sometimes, yet accessories and shoes and things would change slightly for stage.

And finally this is quite irrelevant to a lot of people... where do you work, obviously not in an office but do you work predominantly at home or in a studio or a..

Well I'd say there's two places, there's either at home, predominantly at home or... sort of on the road really. That's not a place but id say that my times divided mostly between home and traveling round venues. But it's probably more at home if anything preparing for those periods of touring.

Erm and then what are your main reasons for buying a new garment, such as being worn out or specific occasions?

Erm I would say its for work so for performing, you know to keep up, just to get something new, that hasn't been worn to the same people 10x already and something that's kind of current as well just to...

And then approximately how often would you say that you bought garments?

Erm... I'd say once a month, I've really cut down on how often I shop

And when you do make a purchase on a shopping trip, approximately how many garments do you buy at once?

It varies but I would say that once I start I would buy maybe three things, maybe four.

Ok and then how many garments do you remember buying in the last six months?

(counting) I guess you are not counting any sort of accessories really are you? Not shoes or hats or anything.

No, just garments

Just body, yer... erm... six months is going back to May, the summer, its really tricky, erm... I'd have to take a guess really.

That's fine

I'd say probably fifteen? I can think of three but I know that there's more, there's more.

Yer six months is quite difficult really because...

Yer

Erm and then can you remember any of them?

Yes I have some of them here. [pile of clothes on the table]

Ok so we can discuss them later. And then what brands or retailers do you tend to buy from?

Urban Outfitters and Topshop are usually where I go to , but actually the things that I will show you are from Benneton but I don't really go in there but when I walk past I have bought things from their.

Cool and then do you ever buy second hand clothing?

Yep

Erm and if so how often? And I suppose what kind of things do you buy?

Erm... its really add hoc it just depends... I don't really make a beeline for second hand stores but if I see something I will buy it. Oh the last thing that I bought form a second hand shop that I can remember buying from a charity shop was a dress from Cardiff.

And then when you are purchasing a garment, what elements do you consider?

The fit, and if that's flattering...

Erm and then I think we've already covered this. Do you have a separate clothes wardrobe for different occasions, such as your work and...

Yer I do tend to keep, even though I do start to wear my stage clothes all the time I do tend to sort of keep that separate really.

So you keep them for stage until they are no longer relevant and then you...

yer once I've worn them a lot yer.

Erm and then what are your main reasons for getting rid of a garment?

Erm I make a lot of bad purchases so buying something and realising that it looks terrible or that I don't like it. Erm... do you need more? [laughing] I do that all the time, I have a massive bag of stuff I'm going to try and sell on ebay because I've given so much to the charity shop that I am starting to really loath how much I'm just giving away. It's a nice thing to do but its so much stuff so I'm going to try and actually make some money back that I've wasted on clothes. But erm that reason and then... that's the main reason, a lot of the things that I wear I've had for years but, if they fit really well and they've not got holes, you know they're not wearing out and looking scruffy. You know looking scruffy is a second, if they look old.

Erm and what would you do with it? When you are getting rid of something? Take it to the charity and ebay?

Charity and I've only ever sold one thing on ebay so far but yer. That's next my plan.

Fingers crossed.

I sold one dress for five pounds but I kind of decided I liked it once I'd sold it. [laughing] I sort of thought, I know that if I saw it in a shop I'd probably buy it but because I'd had it in my wardrobe for ages... I had got my use out of it though. So getting bored of stuff is probably my third reason for getting rid of things.

Ok and then how often do you get rid of garments?

Probably once every four months maybe three times a year?

And erm when you get rid of things approximately how many / how much do you get rid of? A bag full or...

Yep.

And how big would that bag be?

I'd say it's probably small because the last time I did through stuff out I'd kept it for ages and it was bin bags. But then I'd kept them for a while; maybe I just do twice a year in a bigger...

Twice a year in a bin bag.

Bin bags yes

And one bin bag?

One, probably one.

And then to go on to sewing skills... How much experience do you have?

Just school and I don't think I've sewn anything since I've had to then.

Erm and have you ever used a sewing machine before?

Yer in school it think... yes I definitely have.

And are you confident about using one?

[shaking head]

Have you ever performed any of these types of mending? So if I just go through them and you can just say, yes or no. So darning?

No

Shortening something?

(shaking head) no

Lengthening it?

no

resewing on buttons

maybe yes.

Patching

[shaking head]

slight alterations in size?

Invisible mending?

Major alterations? [shaking head] presuming no.

Repairing tears?

No. I do hate to say. I do take stuff to get mended to other people that I could probably do myself if I learnt but... nothing really.

Ok customising.

Yer I have erm chopped a t-shirt up or sewn something but not when that requires any sewing.

Erm and then what do you hope to gain from these workshops?

Erm just the confidence to do simple repairs. Because I really want to be able to fix some socks rather than it [the hole] gets bigger and bigger and then throw them away and things like that and then I've got two skirts that I've ripped the seam they have a slit up the back but its ripped up and I want to be able to fix them because they are things that I wear a lot.

Erm and then what are your main constraints to mending? Would you say? So something like time or skills...

Time, skills, both of those yer... and I don't actually have any equipment really at the moment. Sadly I don't even have a needle. I probably do somewhere... hanging round I can get all of that [laughing]

I should have come with one today.

I do need one I could root around for one.

No I'll proving everything. Erm... and then is there anything that you have ever done to try and extend a garments life?

Erm... I do, not really but I keep stuff until it looks good again or is fashionable again. Do you mean personally? Or I've had stuff mended, yer I've had things sewn and zips replaced.

Erm and so when you've had a zip replaced have you just gone to a local tailor?

Nod

And then what would you do to a garment if the button fell off?

To be totally honest I do still wear stuff without the buttons until there's so few that I can't wear it but I have this green chiffon... actually I can add this to the list of things to mend, cause I don't have any buttons. Erm

yer I just its fine with just one or two. If it goes down ther and up here you are kind of ok with two in the middle and wearing something underneath so that's what I do.

Sounds like me and cardigans... you kind of swap them round and start off...

And then they're all gone.

Erm and then what would you do with a garment if you found a hole in it? Or one of your items of clothing say?

Erm just leave it until it was too big. I guess my style is quite scruffy so I don't mind too much...

Erm ok so we can go onto the garments that you've got ready I suppose so your favourite garments...

Ok.

Erm...

I really like this, I wear this on stage quite a bit and I like it cause I bought it in the sale I think in the Urban Outfitters again, and it just feels really unique and it fits really well and it was sort of a bargain, but a bargain that I love so... and its looking a bit faded. And yep I just really like the detail.

And so how long would you say you've had it for?

Erm.. about a year.

And how often would you say you wear it?

Erm... oh I guess its tricky because I wear it on stage so I don't wear it that often, and I don't wear it every single night so... erm a few times a month? Is that useful? 3 / 5.

Cool and then do you mind if I just take a picture?

Yer. Do you want coat hangers? Or do you want to lay it out on the bed?

No I can just pop it on here, I think it should be fine. Its more just as a...

Memory.

Yes just a memory, so that I can see what I am doing with all of the notes. And then do you have any others that are your favourites as well?

Erm... I really like this. This was sort of, was a stage thing. But I've had it for absolutely ages. And it also comes into your customise section because it was a dress, from TKmaxx. I don't know what the actual brand

is, its just some random thing. Hourglass. It was a dress but I didn't want to wear it as a dress so I chopped it off and I think I chopped it longer to start with, and then I sort of gradually... oh maybe wore it as a dress? I did actually wear it as a dress and then as the years have gone by I've changed it. So now it's a top and I've worn it on stage through hundreds of years and now I wear it out a little bit sometimes. Its just a bit cheep really

And so how long do you think you have had it for then?

Erm... 13 years. It's a long time isn't it. I can still wear it, I wore it out a few weeks ago [laughing] but I just think I like things because they are unique really and obviously there were more than one of these made but I don't think, I think that you would struggle to find anyone else that's got it because it's TKmaxx and probably some brand that maybe doesn't even exist anymore and they have very strange bits and bobs in there. I bought it from Canarvon in west Wales so. So yer

And then how often do you think that you wear it, then?

Erm... a few, oh I don't know. Maybe six times a year? It doesn't necessarily work as a favourite. I guess this could be a favourite in the fact that I wear it all the time [pointing to something else], every day.

No favourites don't mean that you wear them all the time I suppose its your attachment to them more than anything else.

Yep

Actually I used to have a see through top in fabric like that about 13 years ago in fabric like that.

Did you! Yer that paisley pattern used to be really popular, purply colours as well.

It was blue and then it had that kind of thing on their, and it would have been when I was a university. Shows how old I am.

Well yer it was when my friends were at university probably or just before.

Cool and then did you have another one in this group?

Er... erm well, this is something I've had the longest but is suppose its because I like it a lot as well. But I'll never wear it out - ever. But then that comes into the keep but never wear collection. And I was going to say this actually. I can take it off and you can take a picture of it because it's a recent thing. My friend made. Oh no I've got a stain on it, rubbish. Hopefully that's today. Erm its just and H&M sweater but shes been printing or designing images and somebody else has been screen printing them and since she gave them to me a few months ago I've just worn it about 3x a week.

And how old do you think it would be?

Six months. Max. Because she just bought them before she made them. Maybe three actually.

Its lovely, and so, I suppose, why do you think all of those are your favourites then?

Erm... I like things that I think no one else is going to have and like you said that people did have this kind of thing around the time [red boob tube] but because it was from TKmaxx, I didn't really see it in any general shop windows and there was only one of them in there and it was reduced I remember to like seven quid they were getting rid of it quickly because nobody wanted it. Erm so I like things that sort of, look a bit different. And this is definitely [top with print], there aren't so many of these because it's her idea and she designed it and she hasn't made many or sold many yet. That's one of my reasons yep.

Your attachment sorry is something to do with the fact that it's a friend that did the print on it? Or...

Yer. Definately that has something to do with it but more because no one else has that I guess. And this has a lot of nostalgia because I've worn it on stage playing different things, with a friend that's passed away actually that I used to play with and that I had it when I used to play with her. So a mixture of the two. Memories and uniqueness.

Ok and so if we go onto garments that you never wear but keep.

Erm these have a lot of nostalgia to them as well actually. This is something that I've had for absolutly ages and I just love it for years and years maybe... erm 15 years? And I used to wear this to gigs as well and it was just really warm erm even though it's thin and I used to wear it out a lot when I was a teenager, and I don't know why I still have it but it just, its still in really good condition and its not in fashion or out, its just kind of... I looks quite nice on but it's a tiny bit small unsurprisingly it's a bit short. I've put it on recently but I don't think im going to wear it out I'm just not going to throw it away. I try not to be a horder but...

So when do you think that you last wore it then?

Erm... 12 years ago? I sort of wore it constantly for about three years I guess.

Erm. Cool. It does look so tiny doesn't it.

Yer it's a bit short in the body and it kind of clings, its quite stretchy fabric for a jumper. I think ive shrunk it to be honest, but oh well.

I think that's the main problem with jumpers as they get old, isn't it?

Yer and you just forget to hand wash them once and that's it.

Yer I had a favourite jumper, and I accidently, well I did a hand wash on the machine and it just didn't like it. Erm did you have any others that you don't wear?

Erm this. My friend is a fashion buyer and this is quite tragically nostalgic really but I... this is the first thing that she ever bought for principles so I bought it. Because I liked it as the time as well to wear, I didn't just buy it to be, but I liked it and I was wearing it for a bit, but it doesn't look great. On me, my shape. So I don't know why I haven't got rid of it really because I sure she wouldn't mind. Its really quite tragic.

Yer because shes probably gone onto bigger and better things now.

Yer, and I still buy stuff that she buys in anyway. And I guess I keep it because I think that I'm gona wear it but I don't.

And so how old would you say this is?

Erm... three or four years? Maybe five actually... lets say five. Oh will it say?

Oh no I'm just looking at the compositions as well. Just to see kind of... if there's any correlation behind...

Whether I keep certain fabrics I guess that would happen though...

Because you've got quite a lot of knit, actually its either jersey or jumpers so far that I've seen.

Yer that's kind of what I wear a lot of I don't have much dressing up stuff you know, dressing up fabrics, slightly smart stuff.

Erm and then I suppose when was the last time that you wore this dress? Or top...

Yer it's a bit of both isn't it. Erm the year I bought it so probably five years ago.

Did you have another one in that group?

Erm what was it? Stuff that I keep but don't wear?

Yer

They do cross over I'd say a little bit but I'd say this, no idea why I'm not getting rid of it. I always think that it will be useful in the summer. That's why it has no, wear, its just Primark though. I ve got rid of a lot of stuff lately. I've got quite a few things that I keep for holidays in warm countries. Its also got a hole in it so it might come into my mending section.

And so how old would you say that it was?

Erm three years?

And when was the last time that you wore it?

This summer I've worn it once.

Cool. Ok, so garments that you wear all of the time.

Erm... well I do do a lot of gigs so my gig tops that I've bought for that reason, and this I wear off stage as well because I like it a lot, underneath things and just, both of these have got a similar purpose.

So how old would you say it was?

A year?

And how often would you wear it.

Erm I'd say about , if its averaged out, because I wear it a lot of toor and then not so much when I get back so I'd say probably at least seven times a months, that seems like quite a lot. No that's about right.... Maybe eight.

Cool. Yer because you've said that its gone past... I suppose your work stage.

Erm yer well it crosses over, well it does get used on stage but...

And then why do you think this is one of the garments that you wear all of the time? Why would you say that?

Erm because I think with my stage stuff I'm trying to wear things that I feel most authentic and most comfortable in so they tend to cross over into wat I wear out as well. Because I'm not trying to be, its not supposed to be a costume. I want it to be stuff that I feel comfortable in really and it be kinda current and up to date and so I'll wear it for a few months or even a year maybe. That's from ASDA. If anyone found out that I wore an ASDA top on stage! Don't tell anyone [laughing].

Nothing wrong with that one.

Its almost identicle to something in Topshop.

My friend keeps trying to get me to go to Tesco because she does the lingerie there.

Arr does she. She buys the lingeree really. It must be quite nice, some of it. Good for multi packs of cottons.

I think it just, trying to find the Tesco Extras so that you can get the range.

Its quite hard in London to find things like that. Its easier in out of town.

I think its when I go and see my family that I can actually go in and buy it.

Yes that's what happens. When I go to Cardiff or west Wales I just come away with all of these, yes stuff from all of these shops. And New Look and things, that you are never going to find here.

So how old would you say this is?

That's only four months.

And then how often would you say you've worn it since you bought it?

erm... how many actual times? Times a month, oh I'm rubbish at things like this. I hope its not too vague erm, so probably about 30 times with all of the gigs that I've done.

And so did you have any others that you wanted to add to this?

Erm I think that they are my favourites at the moment, what that the thing? Oh no...

That you wear all of the time.

That and this definitely. Like I said I just wear this more like it's a day, this always goes in my suitcase when ever I go anywhere.

I might get you to take it off at some point so that I can take a photo....

Such a good idea.

Its great isn't it.

Is she doing other animals as well or is it just monkeys?

Its like a see no evil rave kind of idea. Yes so there's sunglasses, then maybe a whistle or a duppy and then on other thing for the ears... oh headphones, yer headphones. So its kinda like a rave version of the see no evil hear no evil speak no evil, monkeys thing. You know what I mean. Shes crazy my friend she makes my music videos and shes a photographer and she s got a studio, and the studio next to her's, a girl does screen printing of her graphic designs and shes hired a screen printer to print these things that she designs and my friend has rented out a section of her studio for the actuall screen printing, because the girl has the small studio where she does the designs and does drawings and stuff. But she needed space for the printing. So its in her room. So she obviously thought oh I'm going to get into that. I'm going to get into screen printing so shes designed these and the girl that's renting her room makes them for her.

Oh brilliant.

Yer she's got some birthday cards in Joy. Do you ever go to Joy?

Yer I've heard of it.

I think they may be in Scribblers soon, but they are really ones that she hand draws and she's always got a new project on the go.

Cool thank you. Right and then garments that you've had the longest or are the oldest.

Oh I guess its going to double up a little bit with those, definitely the orange jumper. I think that was why I brought that one for that category and also the red one cause they are definitely my oldest things. This is more stuff that I'm getting rid of.

Ok so the newest garments that you have.

This is pretty new and I forgot to get the other one out. I'll go and get it now. That's just a jersey top.

... pause while 2x practicing musicians make a cup of tea.

so when did you get that do you think?

These were all the same shopping trip, when did we get this John, because you came with me didn't you. It was a few months ago wasn't it?

John: Yer it was.

Probably August, no more like July.

Something significant happened that day, well, yer... I let you buy some clothes. June or July. You are the marriage counsellor yer!

So about four months. No about five months ago.

That's the one.

[... pause while 2x practicing musicians make a cup of tea].

So I think it was....

About five months ago

Yes

About July. And how often do you think that you wear it?

Erm... sorry it was August, it was definitely August I'm going to change it all. Yes. Erm maybe three times a month.

Erm... and this was the same time same shop. And do you wear it about the same amount of times?

Oh yer. I think this is the same day as well, I haven't worn it very much.

So what do you think you've worn it about five times then?

Three.

[...]

so that's from before...

and also a mending one.

It's a mending one. Ok so we are on to any garments that have had alterations, or mended.

[...]

I don't know if I have any. What did I get fixed recently? Oh well I had this sewn up but then its broken again so I had put it in the pile for a different reason.

Ok

Erm... and that's it really. I had a dress that I got the zip fixed in but it broke again as soon as I did it up and I should have gone back and complained but I didn't and I think I've given that one to charity.

And then this is the one where the seam's going on it.

Yer. This has broken again as well its mainly because its probably a bit tight and because its in one of those places where if you sit down wrong where you stretch [the fabric] you just break it.

Yer.

Its something I want to fix and mend again cause although it's a little bobbly and old but...

So if we leave the garments that you've had stuff done to. So this cardigan you are wanting to get rid of the little hole?

Yer maybe, I thought it would be a good exercise. I don't know, it is one of the things that I don't wear to much but, deffinately this skirt because it is quite new and something happened to that. Its just all coming away, from climbing out of a car because a door wasn't working.

Oh.

Yer. I spent the whole tour climbing over the gear sticks because the guitarist wouldn't fix it, his car door. So I couldn't get out, I had to climb over to his side. Anyway. Yer so that's ripped all the way. Its not actually ripped at all its just come undone. So all the stitching's come away but its not, there's no tear in the fabric so that's something that you could fix.

So that's something that could be done really quickly. You didn't have to go on stage after did you?

No luckily it was , I had wanted to wear that most nights actually but luckily it was getting out of the car at the end of the night. Things just get old so quickly when you wash them all the time. We need to get a de-bobbeler, you can get things can't you that chop of these little bobbles.

Yes you can actually.

It gets scrappy looking very quickly when you wear it all the time.

Erm and how often would you say you used to wear this then?

Its really new and I've only had it two months, so this isn't, this is a newer piece than the ones that we were talking about.

So obviously the quality is really bad, that's what happened.

Yer because I did catch it on the gear stick, but I guess it pulled. Only once, it wasn't like repetitive stretching. Repetitive strain on the clothes.

So how often did you wear this do you think?

Erm... I had worn it probably six times already.

Ok and then you had the other skirt as well.

Yer that's a bit older. I've had that a year and a half and I've worn it lots of times. Which is why I got it fixed, mended the first time and then I want to remend it. This ones more my fault because it's a bit tight.

And then sorry you've worn this a lot have you?

Yer.

So what, a couple of times a week? No.

On average erm... so hard because on tour for two weeks I usually wear it about seven times but the, no once a week, since I bought it is probably more...

Ok and then any garments that you think that you are going to get rid of in the next few months?

Erm... this jacket it just doesn't fit, it's just too big for me.

How long have you had it for?

I don't remember at all actually. I think I may have got it from a charity shop. I don't...or it could have been my housemates and she gave it to me. I don't think I ever bought it for myself because it doesn't really fit that well. Or maybe if you got rid of the shoulder pads... that could be something that you could alter. But otherwise yer, I will be getting rid of it.

So it's just because of the fit really.

Yer.

And then this green shirt..?

Erm this is something that I want to mend. I don't know if I have the buttons but I'd be happy to put different ones on.

How long have you had it for?

Erm... two/ three years?

And how often did you use to wear it?

Not many times... the fifth button fell of almost too easily so I think, not much no. about five or six times.

And did you get that for work?

For performing? Yer pretty much.

And do you think you would wear it more if the buttons were there?

Yer

For working?

A little bit I guess its one of those things that I'm not massively keen on. Yer I probably would. I think there's a middle one that went recently that doesn't leave it looking good. Before that it was just the bottom two which didn't matter much really. But now that's gone its...

Cool ok so the garments that you are getting rid of.

Er these trousers, I'm going on holiday, I'm going to Thailand and thought that maybe I might wear them then, but they have no other purpose apart from a really hot country where... this really isn't something I'd wear. I bought them before for a holiday as well. So I'll get rid of them probably after that holiday.

And how often.. sorry how old would you say they were?

Erm three years.

And you've only ever really worn them on holiday?

I think I've just worn them on one holiday.

Cool must be difficult... because I've got things like this. I used to have to travel to India all of the time with work.

Did you? Yer that's what I first bought them for either Morocco or Goa or... as a holiday and they are useful for that. But I don't do that often so I laughing...

Yer its really hard because you have to make sure that you are covered up.

Yer and it's much cooler as well, the sort of linen fabric and trousers are cooler as well than a skirt I think.

Erm... this is something that's been customised. But actually not by me so I'm not sure if that's relevant. To do any of these?

No that's fine.

Big old t-shirt that my friend gave it to me.

so how did you customise it? Did you just cut the off...

yer it wasn't me that customised it . it was already done. It was just sleeves chopped but really chopped right down the side.

And how often would you say you wear that?

Hardly ever. It's probably in the keep but never wear actually. And this is another thing that I might get rid of.

And how old would you say, and how long have you had this for?

I've had it for about four years. But it was old before that. I guess it's sentimental, in some ways...

What, because it holds..

Well it's not a good friend, close friend that gave it to me. But I wore it in a photo shoot and he was taking the photos which is why he lent it to me to wear in the photoshoot but his dad was in a band in the 80's and this was one of their band t-shirts.

Oh wow.

And his dad passed away but I don't know his dad or I don't stay in touch with him much but I feel like I can't get rid of it. So I keep it.

Yes because it's kind of a memento...

Yer it was in a photo that I use a lot and yer I guess it was from his dad and I should really give it back to him. He's probably got loads of them anyway.

And then you had one more thing.

Er yes this is just something. I'm not sure which category this would go into. Probably something that I'm going to get rid of and that I've hardly ever worn. So it's quite new or maybe a year old.

What a couple of times or...?

[Possibly never] whispers.

I think I tried it on loads of times and not ever worn it. Which is why I'm resorting to eBay as a sort of charity shop as these things are usually quite new and cost... they are not just little jersey tops... people might want.

And especially if they are... you should be able to get quite a bit of money from all of these things. Shouldn't you?

Yer. I'm sure they might even sell similar things because it was from a concession in a top shop. Or maybe not as I haven't got the tag.

Well we've nearly finished. Erm... where do you store all of your clothes?

Erm in a chest of drawers and a wardrobe.

Ok. And then if you don't mind would it be ok to go round and count everything?

Yer, all my clothes. Yer ok. Exactly how many items I have. There's actually two wardrobes. So we will start in the spare room.

Are the boys in there or...

No. this is quite a big flat. As weve got a spare bedroom. So.

I think they could do with updating the kitchen for you guys.

Yer. The whole place is really old which is why its so cheap. But... erm I realise I haven't even unpacked. Do you want to start there and I...

Oh we can just do estimations as well it doesn't really matter too much.

Yer?

Erm, ok there's like eight.

are these all tops?

Skirts.

We'll do skirts.

Three , four dresses

and three tops. Cool, so are these all of yours?

Yer all of that's mine.

And then one coat.

Do you want coats as well? I can just count the few here if you want.

Yes. Three shirts, Two skirts one top. One cardigan.

Just Two down there...

So you've got four coats altogether...

Erm ive got one more somewhere else I don't know where.

Ok

And I've got more in here as well sorry.

Oh is this a pile to get rid of?

I should unpack this. No this isn't even that this is the stuff I haven't been able to unpack yet. There are coats that I might not wear. There's a bag of eBay stuff in the other room. Yes these are coats that I wear so that's another three to add to what we said four and three.

Cool.

And when it's colder they will get more use.

And then that's a jacket isn't it and then what, one jacket? Cool thank you. Sorry I'm creating a mess.

No I was thinking actually when I was sorting through it was a bit too long. As they've been in bags for two months. The kitchen. That's the worst thing. This is the only cooking space. Everything gets chopped and made. It's such a big room but there's no surfaces to cook on.

They obviously just haven't really thought about it.

No I don't think they've been here for a year. The last guy was here for six years. I don't think they ever came round.

Oh do they live above you then?

The woman is an old lady who lives above and has a sort of house above the basement flat. So erm.. that's mine. So I think all of that apart from that is mine.

Ok so...

And you don't want underwear...

No

Fortunately most of it's stuffed in those drawers at the moment.

Jeans...

I might get these out and then I can fold them up and put them away.

And two t-shirts and tops. I always feel terrible doing this.

It's a really good excuse to tidy up.

But it's really interesting to find out what people have.

I actually have just moved. I've thrown so much out. Maybe I don't have as much as I would have normally.

Skirts.

And so's that and so's that.

6 tops...?

and jumpers the same? This is great I love tidying up.... I haven't done this for ages

I'm stopping you from doing your work.

No, it's all right.

Right so that's been done already... so that's a top and... two, three, four...

Five. That's a dress actually if that matters. Three more tops

Ok

Four sorry one more.

Leggings. And then a jumper, two jumpers.

Two skirts and whatever... jegging things, jeans. Its all mixed intogether, there's no system. And this is all jumpers down here, is that ok? There's not that... I haven't actually got that much stuff at the moment this is all jumpers.

If they're all jumpers you could probably just count them in the thing...

[counting] twelve

ok cool thank you. And then, is this...

theres probably loads of things in the wash as well.

Its ok, do you have more than two pairs of jeans do you think?

Yer, only two well... theres that pair, there's three. Yep I've just thrown the others out. In here there's some pyjamas, do you need these do you want to count them?

No its fine.

And then so on the washing, on the airer is the rest.

Oh...

Ok I think there's one more jumper on their,

The pair of jeans that we've already spoken about?

Yer, I'll go and have a look. I need to bring it in anyway.

Erm so there was a dress a skirt, five tops and some leggings.

Brilliant thank you.

That's quite funny, I've never done an inventory of my clothes before.

Well, after one lady that I've done it with, I actually went home straight away and did an inventory of mine!

Why?

Because she had so many.

Did she just like I don't have enough. I hardly have anything. I think. Do I have a lot? No... theres not much at all is it. Im really dfunny about getting rid of stuff that I don't wear and we don't have a lot of space either so.

And then do you have your bag of things that you are going to put on...

eBay. Yer are you thinking of buying any of it?

[laughting]

I don't know how bad it is actually I haven't had a look for a while. [difficult to hear because of the music practice in the background] Shall I open it or...

It's lots of going out stuff cause.. dresses....stage wear.

Nice bag... tie dye or something.

I used to, in my last job I'd have to go to this big textile fair each season and we would buy prints. and that was what one of them did. So you would kind of buy the prints and then they'd just give you the bag to put the prints in. [weighing clothes] still going up nine... 50, is that right... 3000, four six...

In kilograms?

4800 – is that nearly five kg?

I'm rubbish with that stuff, sorry I know stones still. That's in kilograms and pounds, grams isn't it.

Yer so it would be 4800 and you've got coats, dresses and tops.

That's mainly whats in there I don't have any fancy clothes to sell really.

Yer I should start thinking about that.

Because we erm...

I kind of want to do a car boot sale or a little fair or something. Seems way more fun then posting things out and taking photos of it.

Yer because doing all of that is just quite hard work. Where as just going somewhere for the day...

Yer. A lot more fun as well. There's a good pub the car club in Dalston. Which isn't that far away. Where do you live in London?

Erm Finsbury Park, so its quite close not too far away. But ive never really been to a proper car boot sale. We sometimes have people just putting things out...

On the street?

Well they have a table, yer kind of a garage sale on seven sisters road but its always a bit random.

Yer. Thank you, thank you so much for doing this for me today.

It's alright

And then just a bit of a conclusion. Do you think today's chat has effected your relationship with your garments or?

Erm yer... erm its made me realise how scruffy some of them are [laughting] erm...yer it makes you more attached. It makes you realise what you are attached to. And er.. wearing habits and things.

And so you basically got rid of a lot of stuff before you moved in here a couple of months ago?

I did. Yer so a lot of jersy tops and things but ive kept the ones I wear. But lots of things went at that point. Erm and stuff I had kept for a while. I do tend to keep things for a while before getting rid of them. Some of the stuff.

Cool thank you.

Is that enough? Are you sure?

Oh don't worry at all.

8.2.8.4 Interview 4. 16th Oct 2013 at 10am

Recording: 59minuits

At the interviewees home in Tottenham (near Seven Sisters tube. The volunteer did live on one of the three streets but has since moved, further outside London for cheaper rent).

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 4, Nancy

Oh don't worry at all.

Cool.

Erm yer it's just easier to do that cause it's video... erm okay so first of all. If you could please tell me why you decided to volunteer for this study?

Cause I really like crafts an fashion and I always try to make myself busy and to, I always try to see how clothes can change. cause many times I buy things and think maybe I could change this, and I always used to go to my tailor in Portugal which would be super cheap. And here its not so I'm erm, yer I'm not really mending my things.

Erm and then I suppose you've already talked a bit about it but could you tell me a bit about your lifestyle... kind of what you do on an evening what, how you work. So that I can see how it fits in with your clothing habits.

Arh okay... er...

Erm... I suppose so that I can understand whether you've got a work wardrobe...

Arh no. Basically I mix everything I don't really have evening wear if I have to go out I'll just maybe change my shoes but I just have same amount of clothes? I don't really do evening wear.

Erm...

What you see there was never used.

And so what kind of work do you do? This is just to kind of understand...

I work in a fashion boutique in Knightsbridge its called Feathers erm we sell, Alexander McQueen, Rick Owens, Anne Dulemenster, quite expensive things and I'm the stock manager and also the assistant manager for the website so we sell online as well with Far Fetch. I don't know whether you've heard of Far Fetch? Kind of like NET-A-PORTER but they're a platform for small boutiques so they manage our website.

Oh brilliant.

So.. basically I manage the stock and check what prices and invoices with erm... the companies and the brands.

So obviously you have to when you are working you have to wear...

Very practical clothes.

Practical clothes and do they need to be by the designers that are in the shop?

Erm... not really I mostly, I make fun I'm sponsored by Zara they make really good copies, but I like there style. I really need to be practical. Or if I take some thing like a nice shirt, sometimes I'll have to change cause I'm always carrying boxes, opening boxes, er.. yer. Of clothes.

So most of your work is done really in the office?

In the back office, yer, and then I do two hours in the shop so I kind of need to be presentable, or I'll have like high heels to change there and if I don't feel like I'm professional enough I'll just change cause maybe I'll have a blazer and that's it...

Okay and then... what are your main reasons for buying a new garment?

Emotional? I don't know I'm trying to avoid black now. Black and grey, especially on these days I get really down (meaning gloomy autumnal/ winter days). I used to only have summer clothes really in Portugal so for instance until now I'd only wear tank tops and really light clothes really vibrant. And when I came here, to be, to have to wear so many layers, and well my wardrobe changed completely. So also my colours, so I'm trying to go back into colour, but sometimes its not really easy and yer and I really like simple things.

Okay and you mentioned emotional, is that because it makes you feel good to buy?

Yer, yer, actually sometimes it makes me feel better to change something that I already have and know that I'll use it again, my mother used to make fun of me because I would go to this outlet and buy things like,

many things and have no idea what to do with that and I'd think but maybe I'll take it to the tailor but then I wouldn't wear it anyways. I would, I find it nice to change. I like that process

Erm and approximately how often do you buy clothes do you think?

Well, I prefer when they're on sale, so actually I was going through the things that I bought recently and I only bought things for spring summer in the sale. For winter, I also try to buy in sale for the next season I'll see more what's more my style I don't go much for fashion, it's more like a style than fashion.

So what? Do you shop then twice a year then?

Yer, yer. So that if we look at what I bought last time I went to Portugal maybe in the beginning of September and because Zara's cheaper so I check things on line I kind of try them and I got a pair of boots and jeans that I always wear, I try to make things really warm.

Cool, and then when you buy things, how many garments do you think you buy at a time?

Erm maximum two.

Maximum two. So what would you say you bought four items of clothing a year do you think?

Oh no more, more [laughing]. Because also my shop, we have Easter sale so I get erm a voucher and like I got lots of t-shirts, basics, basic t-shirts, maybe I'll tell you.

You presumably get a very good discount as well.

Er, not really. We have like 2 pieces 50%.. but then things are so expensive that I never really buy...

Erm and then how many garments do you remember buying in the last six months do you think?

Erm, more than 10.

Okay. But below 20? Or...

Yer below 20.

I also take lots of things away when I moved.

Cool erm and then what brands and retailers and other shops do you often shop with... you've mentioned Zara already.

Zara, mainly. Er cause it's closer to me and I like their style. I like COS but it doesn't fit me, it's a very, loose no shape although I like the loose, er, style it doesn't really fit me. Topshop, I, like to see the things on the windows, but then some, in my style I don't find the quality, it's not a good quality. Yer mainly Zara, mainly Zara.

Mainly Zara. Erm and then do you ever buy second hand clothing at all?

Er,

Or vintage?

Not really, I like the concept, but I don't know why things are too expensive, it's already second-hand. Sometimes I just feel like, it just smells like worn, and they're not really in a good shape. Well I don't mind recycling things from my friends so sometimes we say, well I'm giving this away do you want something? I'll take it, if the buttons are, I'll just keep it. But not really second-hand.

Erm and so I'll come back to that in a minute. You mentioned that you don't have a separate wardrobe for work and everything, you keep it all together. Erm...

Casue also I don't wear many dresses or skirts when I go out so I'll just keep it, casual I'll just go casual.

And what would be your main reasons for getting rid of or discarding a garments?

Er.. space and again its.. kind of an emotional er how do you say... de-cluttering?

So more that, than, I suppose...

Oh, to be honest sometimes I feel bad I'm not using things and I'll just find someone else who will using it in a different way. Even if really nice clothes, or I've never worn them before I'll give them away. I've tried to sell some things on eBay er... so they didn't sell so I just gave them to a friend.

So so when you do get rid of them you tend to give them to a friend..

Or a charity.

Okay, cool, you never throw it away?

No. or sometimes I'll just keep it an maybe take it to Portugal to give to my mother or my family.

Cool and then how frequently do you get rid of garments do you think?

Erm mostly like twice when I change my seasons clothing, yer maybe I'll do like a general cleaning and those times, or sometimes if I'm not having a very good day I will just look at things and say I need to get rid of things and I will just put everything in in a bag and give it away.

A way of cleaning, mentally clearing your head, and when you do getting rid of things, how many garments do you think there are, or?

Well to be honest last time I had like two big bags?

And so would you call them bin bags

Oh yes

Full up

Black ones. Cause also I find that here in London there, well this room is big but the one in Angel were I was living was so small, the space in the room with my bed was this big so I din not have much space to put things so... I just had to decide yer well I'll get rid of things.

Yer its a nightmare in London, is space. So do you tend to get rid of two big black bin bags twice a year so that's about

Not twice a year because I keep a lot of things thinking, well I'll use them in 10 years maybe, but I'm I feel bad to keep things that I don't use so sometimes I'll end up thinking oh my God I gave those away and I'll wish I will have them now.

Have you ever asked for them back before?

No, no , no [laughing].

I just find well something will come, it has happened to me before. Once I gave a pair of trainers thinking, you know what, actually it was an ex boyfriend had given it to me, I don't want anything from him, so I'm going to give, and I gave it to my, er my, the lady who was doing the cleaning at the time in my house and she was really happy and I was happy that your happy and I'm happy. My mother gave me a pair of trainers that weekend, well I saw a pair of trainers she gave them to me and now I gave them to a friend of mine. Cause I never worn them so it's a cycle of things.

And do you get quite a few garments in return from people or?

Not really. Cause I find sometimes I have a particular style although its very simple er, I don't no not really.

Erm and to go onto sewing skills, you have some sewing skills...

Er er... I learnt how to hand sew when I was a kid, how to embroider, my mother taught me how to crochet and to knit. Er.. some things I'll learn by myself. Last year I did my first jumper.

Oh wow!

So my mother was saying your never going to finish! I am very perfectionist when I'm I'll do it and then I'll go back, I did like a sleeve four or five times until I thought it was perfect. So I never really followed the pattern but I kind of managed to do that. I was happy.

And do you wear this jumper at all?

Yer yer. Er, well actually its inside my luggage so erm and it's a very big jumper cause I wanted to copy a pattern from Zara and I thought well I am going to save myself money cause I'm going to make it myself and the jumper in Zara cost 35 Pounds, I ended up spending £120 in yarn in Liberties

Its scary isn't it.

Cause I really wanted a nice er, touch you know when you have a really soft er yarn.

But the one in Zara wouldn't have been 100 % wool where as yours probably is..

And its thicker also so its kind of a long jumper with a V-neck and erm just maybe $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves to kind of to not make it too heavy, cause sometimes I find that when I do things with my hands if I'm doing something I stop thinking in a way and then things just flow. I have my creativity back so its always so nice... I have these ideas that maybe I'll buy this scarf and then embroider it but then I don't have time.

Yer, time is a difficult one, erm you've mentioned that you've got a sewing machine. How confident are you with it?

I've never tried it. Er... I have one back home [Portugall], which I've tried it like twice and this one I got it cause my bosses closed the shop in Notting Hill so the were going to get rid of things and I got a sewing machine and an overlocker, and the overlocker I gave it to my mother and I never used it also and the sewing machine I don't even know if it works. Its just one of the things I have, I think maybe one day I'll use it. And I think its nice.

Yer its lovely, when we erm first moved into our flat here we found in the attic an old singer sewing machine...

I love those my grandmother has one, and I keep on wanting to have the er sewing machine back,

you need a lot of space to put it somewhere don't you. It also means that all saints don't have all of them!

Yes how did they do that? Where did they find all of those sewing machines....

Oh I don't know because theyer.. anywhere where you find an all saints in Europe. Cause in Paris they has them as well .it crazy. Erm and then have you ever done any of these or are you confidant with these forms of mending. Its to find out....

Well I think I am, well I'd like to... I try to think of how to do things before I start doing them or if theyre not really working go back... er yep.

So have you ever done darning before?

Whats that?

Erm Its often used when you've got a hole in your sock and erm....

Oh yer, I think I've tried it once on a sheet. My mother taught me that once when I was a kid. So you kind of do with the stirrings....

Yer you almost weave a little bit of fabric.

Yer ok.

Erm. Have you ever shortened or lengthened anything before?

No but I kind of, I've seen my mother doing it.

So you'ur quite happy to do,

yer to do. Think I can do it I never do it myself because I think it will take a lot longer to do it myself rather than just to take it to the tailor.

You've mentioned that you have resewn buttons on and things like that. Have you ever patched anything before?

No.

Erm made slight alterations in size, if it doesn't fit.

Er no.

Invisible mending, I think....

Er... no

I think, major alterations? [shakes head]. Ok no. Repairing tears?

Yes.

Erm reseaming seamwork?

Yes, yes

Erm customising?

Erm I don't think so.

Erm what do you hope to gain from these workshops?

I don't know I just think its nice. And to be honest I like to be with other people and to see what they do so... and maybe I can learn something I can see and maybe I can get to use my sewing machine so I think maybe it will give me some idea. Are I have lots of ideas that's the problem and then I don't really do it.

Ob so its almost a facility or a space, a time that you can...

Do my things yes.

Do something and work it out and that you've got to be creative in that time. Erm and then what do you think your main constraints are to doing any of these things?

Time? [laughing].

Yer, erm...

Cause I thought about doing evening, sewing course but at the time I I did er drawing course. to be honest in er St Martins the courses are so expensive and I thought I can't do that now so I'm starting to do a jewellery one so

Great fun

Yer I hope so.

And the new St Martins building is amazing.

I've been inside, let's see I'm happy, well. Where can I buy a, how do you call it an apron?

An apron? You can get cooking aprons, but that's not necessarily what you want is it.

I kind of wanted like bigger ones,

I don't know to be honest with you.

I'll just buy, maybe I'll go to TKmaxx, on Saturday and then I'll see.

Or if they want very specific ones then they might know where you could get them.

And then is there anything that you have ever done to try and extend a garments life?

Do you do anything?

I always take it to my tailor.

Erm and then I think that you will probably answer tailor to all of these so... erm

Yes probably I, I to be honest I did tell my tailor to move to London because I think she would make a lot of money. Things are very expensive, And some times I find people not very professional, I always take in at the waist on jeans so last time I did that the stitches were completely, they weren't straight and the size of the stitch wasn't the same so when I went on holiday and my tailor re did it again so erm and actually it didn't really work.

So do you almost have a huge pile of clothes that you take with you when you go home

Yer. Sometimes I keep things and think its ok this one I can do and to be honest I can shorten a pair of trousers five euros . I had like lots of things to be done, well I had those curtains made er... yer.

Erm but if a button would fall off...

Erm no , I'd do that.

But yes if you had a hole in it...

Yes I would do that as well.

But if, to mend a zip or something?

Mend a zip no. its quite...

Ok so to have a look at your garments that you've pulled out.

Ok yep.

So your favourite garments.

I don't know if I have favourite garments I have some things that I always wear like jeans erm and I wear a lot of simple tops like old white t-shirts or black or grey. Er I try to have a little bit more colour in summer but to be honest sometimes summer is so short I find it im not going to buy anything this year for summer and then it was so warm I ended up buying shorts and I already put them on the side you know the denim shorts erm.. yer I have summer I try to have different kind of trousers I have more trousers than than I have more bottoms than I have tops. And if I have to wear a pattern maybe I'll wear it on my trousers.

So you don't really have any favourite garments do you think?

Have this is a pair of jeans and ill show you the state of no I'll show you actually I've washed them they are completely ripped cause im always wearing them er, yer they're not here. Yer I'd say jeans mainly.

So if we just pick one of them.

So maybe these ones. These are boyfriend and I'll just roll them up there and I really, normally I wear... how do you say... erm tight jeans, how do you call it?

Slim, just slim?

Yer slim fit, so I'll just wear that or this.

Ok so I'll just...

I shouldn't tell you actually I bought them from current Elliot the shop because they were very on discount, cheaper.

So how... is it just Elliot?

I'll write it for you so currents Elliot. Like this one. Cause they are very soft. The denim is very soft. Actually they were taken in by my tailor her on this site I think and she thought they wernt for me cause they were so bit. They were a 26" but they stretched so much that they really had to take it in. I don't know where she did actually.

And so how long would you say that you've had these for?

Two years? The other jeans they're Zara and I've had them for five or six years.

Erm and how often would you say you that you wore these for or how often do you wear them?

Twice a week.

Twice a week.

So I kind of go through now that its winter I'll wear a lot of er fake leather. Because they are warmer also. And they have like that kind of thing on the inside. Actually I have these ones they are real leather and I have kind of because they were low crotch, I tried to have them repaired but now they don't really come up so I'm not really wearing them. So it is real leather. So I have no idea what to do with them but I should have kind of a triangle shape.

Oh so to mend the hole of the crotch shes just got rid of the fabric hasn't she.

Yes. So I'll wear this kind of fake leather cause I can have sort of leggings under them.

And so to go back to your Zara jeans how often would you wear those ones?

Er as often as I could, for everything to be honest so I would even go out with them.

Would it be possible to take a picture of those ones as well.

There in...

Oh they're in your washing bag.

They should be here.

Don't worry if you cant find them.

Oh no they are here actually. As you can see thay have been worn.

So erm for you, you don't neccesserely, you don't really have favourite garments that you are very attached to.

No, it's erm just as you can see there even on the sides let me pull them down.

And your lady.. yes

Yes so actually I only realised this the other day so she has taken them in on the sides as well and on the waist again.

And she does this to most of your trousers?

Yes

Cool erm and then I suppose to look at garments that you never wear but you've kept.

This are worn, once and I've had it changed already it was a dress and it had another part here... a kind of a ruffle and I made it to a top er and I've worn it once.

And erm so why have you kept it then?

Because I find it's a very nice embroidery work. I don't know. Think it's nice

And

It's er Mango.

And how long have you had it for?

Four years?

So I was just going to see [looking for the composition lable].

I think maybe not I think it was on the..

On the bottom of it

Think it might be silk actually.

Do you think it's silk?

Oh maybe Mango its not.

Silk or poly. The problem is polyester can do very good silk imitations now.

Maybe and this one I bought also on sale. So I would buy. Before I would buy lots of things on sale and maybe I wouldn't wear them . so that I have this ive never worn them

Ok just quickly take a photo.

This she gave me at the beginning of the summer,

So you've had this what about four months do you think?

Yes, maybe its not really my style but then I think maybe I can sell on line on eBay.

So you've never worn those?

No.

Erm and then

And I have this one that I remembered yesterday that I have. And I just took it from my luggage.

So with these ones did your friend wear them for many years?

Yes I think she did two or three years.

Yer definitely make money on that won't you

Yes I think so this I bought maybe one year and a half ago I had it also erm taken in and yesterday I was checking things on ASOS and I realized that I had something similar to what I had also seen and I thought

maybe I could shorten it and maybe taper the legs. And now I would wear it more often because ive never worn it

And who's it by?

Zara

I'll just [take a photo]

Yes

So why do you think that you've never worn it then?

Because I think that with the way the the bottom part is with the wide erm...

Wide legs.

Maybe I want to makes it too lady like and sometimes although I really like nice things that are office wear I don't want a look that's too old in a way. Maybe this is too much.

Yep

And I just need to make it a little bit more.

Sorry I'm trying to read the label.

Because I have had it taken in on the sides as well.

So it would have been... cool

And I also have this one that I bought on sale and it needs to be repaired here. And I did a small workshop for two hours on Thursdays to learn how to do that how do you call it?

Oh to do sequins?

But I didn't find the time to do it yet and also I found I need to somehow and sew the lining...

So you can get in to it.

So I've never worn it.

Often

On the arms no.

Actually they've done it here on the arm there's just a little stitch here.

So this one I haven't worn

And how long have you had that Zara piece for?

Er its going to be a year from in Christmas. Cause I always find even if it has something I can repair. I know I don't.

So again its just having the time.

Yer I think its just you know when you just set a time and you it's like going to a sewing workshop or a drawing workshop just set a time and you just do that.

Ok erm and so why do you think that you keep the garments that you don't wear?

Cause its only thing is like a piece even if I don't wear it in years maybe I can wear it or I find that before I had some fur jacket I would even lend it to my friends to go to weddings and things so I would keep it because maybe... I would use it someday or one day maybe the jeans I wont really use it but these I feel bad because its real leather and it's a real nice piece of work when I try do do just one line of sequins its so hard and I find this was so cheep related to the kind of work it was.

I know its scary. And its difficult to see whether it was hand done or not. Actually maybe it was because its not...

It's a very, yes, it's a very thin sequins so.

Cause normally when its machine done they don't actually fishtail. Shall I take a picture of you're your leather ones as well... so how long have you had your leather ones for?

Three years

Three years?

Two, two years.

And again this is just because the alteration that the lady did at the top. Didn't work and erm...

And its something that I know once you stitch on leather you cant really go back so I wouldn't try myself maybe only if I really knew.

What to do and well the other problem with leather is that on a normal sewing machine it stick. So you need to have a walking top and walking bottom to make sure they move at the same time. So did you ever used to wear this at all or?

No because before I found it it was the style was a little bit too aggressive for me.

And its just kept with the hope..

Yer that one day I'll wear it. Yes it was repaired by a friend of mine that does leather jackets and she wasn't really willing to do that so she was a little bit upset about having to do that so I find that she didn't even want to think about how to properly do the trousers.

Yer

And because she's more, used to follow patterns she couldn't think about the way to solve a problem so I have a...

Then if we move on to garments that you wear all of the time. So probably the jeans...

Well I wear blazers all of the time blazers and I realise that half of my room is full of jackets. So this is what I got for summer and this one as well. And these well the black pleather, and then I have a set of like blazers and erm denim jacket and t-shirt and just a jumper.

Is there one garment other than these two trousers that you've already told me about that you just live in?

So I would say erm maybe the black blazer, leather jacket.

Erm maybe do those two. So how often would you say you wear...

This one in winter I would wear it everyday even under my... coat so I like the leather jacket because even with this coat it has $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeves er I can just have the sleeves out.

And then who, who is it by?

That's Rick Owens.

Ok

I love him. And than I have this one in this by Alexander Wang.

Alexander Wang. And then how often would you wear that one?

Erm... once a week.

Once a week.

Sometimes I would even have it in the shop and just change it there, if I'm wearing normal clothes.

And how long have you had your Alexander...?

This one since April and the leather jacket maybe since December so...

So about 10 months.

And I used to have another one that I sold online.

So I suppose what you do is wear them...

Yer like I mean, now maybe I'm going through a phase and I'm using this one more and this one I have also had repaired by my tailor.

So with these jackets have the jackets been repaired by the tailors as well or is it just the...

No, no these two. Only this one because it opened, the seam opens here and so she what she did I don't know if you can see, what she did.

Oh yer she put that little bit...

She took a bit from the pockets and the same thing happened on the armpits here so she did a kind of a patch here on both sides. So this is something else that I've bought; 50% off, really cheap. Also this one this is a winter one with...

That was once a week...

Erm maybe a t-shirt would be good as well if you wear t-shirts.

A t-shirt. Ok I'll pick a t-shirt from the shop as well or maybe this shirt?

Yep.

Its, oh don't worry. I'll put them back. So I'll try to, since I'm working in that shop, I try to buy as many... if I buy things I'll buy them with good fabric either silk or cashmere...

And how often do you wear this one?

Erm I don't know maybe every two weeks?

Once every two weeks.

Well this one...

Sorry I'm making quite a mess of your...

And then. That one is not silk or is it silk?

It is silk

Er ok. I buy everything on sale. And then I'll wear also like this tank tops they have erm.. I have one with long sleeve perhaps they are cashmere. Actually the brand is Majestic, my boss has just had their brand put on the t-shirts.

Ok and this is just cotton isn't it?

I think this one is viscose and elastane.

Oh yes. And how often would you wear this one?

Er... I don't know because I have quite a few in different colours so I'll just...

Rotate, so what once a week?

Yer, once a week.

Ok and then how long have you had that one for?

A year and a half maybe? And then maybe this ones I would do for winter and this one has cashmere. 70% cotton and 30% cashmere.

Ok so if I'll just... I'll end up having far too many; it's just the amount of data that I'll have to process afterwards. Erm thank you. Er... garments that you've had the longest or are the oldest do you have any?

The jeans

Just the jeans. That are six years old.

Yer I mean that I have these er... that I will show you for a long time and I had it altered and I never wear it because I don't like the buttons. So I think this was actually like a 46 and I had it erm... I got it for 5 years and its wool and cashmere so I just have it... er maybe la Redotte so they have erm a warehouse in my city and very often they do outlets like a fair and they sell things very cheap so I altered it to fit myself but then maybe its not my style but I feel bad because it's a nice coat. Cause I'm not really sure about the buttons and everything.

Yer it's a difficult one isn't it. So how often... have you ever worn it really?

Er twice.

*Twice. Ok and then have you got anything else? So most of your clothes tend to be what up to about two years old would you say?
And then you would either give them to friends or either eBay them.*

Or if they were just beginning to look so worn that I couldn't really use them anymore.

And then your newest garments.

Summer clothes. I think again its things that I know I will wear for years.

So this is almost an Isabelle Marrant jacket.

Yes. Good copy.

Are you going to be going to H&M when...

I don't know to be honest. I had a look at the collection online and had an interview with them actually for their new shop. They didn't want to pay more. But it's a nice collection.

Erm... so when do you think you got this then?

Oh this I got in August

And how often do you think that you've worn it?

Every day when it started to get colder but not like this you know. And then the denim shorts.

And how long would you say you've had those for?

Er... also in July?

Erm and are they Zara too?

Yes Zara.

And how often would you say you wore those?

Er... here once a week. On holiday everyday. I also find that... I was trying to find out why I go for Zara so much, because the shape suits me. Maybe if I go to New Look or Next I will see many shapes that don't

really go with my style or figure. Even the dresses I don't really like you know to have an A-line with a band on because its not really on my waist so I can never buy in shops where I know its not really my style.

Ok erm... I suppose did you have these altered?

These ones no.

No ok.

Things that I have had altered...

Oh you've had loads.

So these I bought in H&M and it had like a patch on the kind of fake leather patch here and then I asked my friend to take it out and just to have some leather on the inside. Er... these Rick Owens jacket had the points too long and I had them shortened.

And so how old is your jacket?

Er one year and a half.

And how often would you wear it?

In the winter everyday. And this I have sewn the zip by myself It started to open.

So would you say almost I suppose 70%, no 50% of your wardrobe has been altered really.

Yes

And why do you think you alter so many things?

Well, first is to adapt it to my shape and second maybe because I like to have something unique, I just change them slightly.

Ok erm and then I suppose do you have any garments that you are going to, that you are thinking about getting rid of in the next few months.

I think the only thing maybe is this one. I haven't worn this for sometime now.

So when you say sometime would you say about a year that you haven't ?

Yes.

And how old would you say that it was?

Er... four years?

Four years and erm... and so normally when your, when you decide to get rid of something is it mainly because you haven't worn it for a year then?

Yes, yes

OK, cool. Erm... and you just store your garments...

Well my, I haven't bought a wardrobe yet so. They are mainly there [pointing at the rails] and I have my summer clothes inside some bags.

Ok and do you mind if I just quickly take pictures. So your summer clothes are in?

Well actually well I have here my big...

Oh suitcase.

And then I have some jumpers that I should take the turtle neck out because they are already an opening, and maybe if I take it out I will wear them.

Erm so would... and then if you don't mind I would like to do a very quick inventory of... what you have. We can always guestimate what you have in your summer clothes so that we don't have to get them out.

Ok

And we will do the winter...

So t-shirts I like I have winter I have like 12, shirts I have like four.

Jackets and coats?

15 so just three coats and maybe 12 jackets. Well maybe I will take the summer ones.

So if I do 14.

Because this one is a winter and summer ok and this one is maybe a summer.

Camis or maybe strappy tops. Or have you put those in the..?

Yer I did I put those with the jersey and t-shirts.

You don't have any dresses? Or?

Yes I do. Maybe 3 winter dresses and summer dresses

Erm skirts?

4, which I also wear in the summer.

So they are the same, and so if we do t-shirts and shirts?

For winter I would say in total 20

So 20 for everything?

No more, 30 I have a lot of t-shirts.

And what about shirts? Would you have any more?

No.

Erm..

Jeans I have like five pairs, I have er more.

There are two here...

Yes five, and this...

And then trousers.

Can I count leggings as well?

Yep.

11 and then I'll add five more to the summer.

And then jeans are the same aren't they. Shorts?

Shorts. I only have summer ones. Three?

Three. All in ones?

I have two.

In total. Knitwear.

I'd say like 10 er yer 10 in total.

And summer things or? One or top?

Two. And cardigans I have like four and one summer.

And oh gosh sorry.

No it's fine.

And then just to finish off erm... do you think going through your clothes in this way has affected how you think about your clothes at all?

Erm I don't know. Only what I think about colour that I actually have more colour. I'm always thinking about what to change to be honest. I found that if I have a bigger wardrobe maybe I'll do different outfits more often.

But it's really easy to see what you have here.

Cause I found that before I wasn't wearing everything that much, because everything was under my bed and my wardrobe was so small, that's why I hid so many things away because I wasn't wearing them so, sometimes I just look and see.

Thank you so much.

Your welcome.

8.2.8.5 Interview 5. 17th Oct 2013 evening.

Recording: 65.12 minutes

At the interviewee's home in Archway

Interviewer: *Emily Towers*

Interviewee: participant 1: Sophie

First of all do you mind telling me, what made you decide to volunteer for this study? Or if you can remember?

Yes ermh... I thought it sounded interesting actually, I remember. Now I remember that you said there would be an opportunity to learn to sew a bit more. I could basically sew on a button and fix, you know sort

of basic repairs but that's about it. and em... I guess also there was an aspect of empathy or sympathy having done a degree in psychology, you know looking for participants I know can be difficult so yes.

Well thank you so much [both laughing]

No that's OK

Well just to check you fit into the 21 to 25 age group? Is that correct?

No the 26

The 26

Yes

Ok I'll write that down and just so I can understand how you wear your clothes can you tell me a bit about your life style? And I suppose how it fits into, how you work, what you do for an evening and weekends and how your clothes fit in

Erm that's quite a tough one, erm... I don't know how to answer it I don't know if you are asking if I have separate wardrobes, or separate clothes for work and say outside work?

Yer you can answer how you want.

or... yes...erm yes I well I've just changed jobs so I will refer to the old job so actually a lot of the clothes that I would wear everyday or to go out I would wear to my job it was sort of smart casual so I could get away with quite erm you know bold colours and things not pure office wear but for the new job I think it has definitely changed ,unfortunately and erm it is much more formal and corporate so I think that I will have a much greater distinction now. Erm... I don't know sorry... could you re cap on the question? So I could add something else to...

Umb I suppose just talk about your lifestyle really and then I can understand...

Ok I'm not sure where to start well so I work er like nine 'til six I travel a lot but not for work erm just for pleasure really, yer whether it is round the UK or outside the UK as my parents live overseas so I've just got from a week in Hungary, erm I don't know really erm I just really. i enjoy clothes I get a big you know I really enjoy just choosing what to wear depending how I am feeling or what I am going to reflect that and erm... yer it is a way I think to express yourself a lot of my clothes are sort of you know sentimental meaning like jewellery in a way I mean it kind of reminds you of a time I got them or I can't throw out because I got them from my mum or whoever else. so I just sentimentally feel I am attached to them erm I'm not sure if there is much else to add to that.

And then erm do you mind telling me what kind of work you do?

Yes sure ok I've just finished working at a publishing company, I was an editor there and now I've moved to a risk management consultancy company but it is not so strange a change as it may sound as I used to work in investigative journalism so it is down that line of work. So now I am a researcher associate in business intelligence, yes.

ok you so do you work in a predominantly in an office then?

Yes, yes

Going round clients? And various things...

Yes I think there will be but at the moment it is very much desk based

And then to understand your general shopping habits what do you think are your main reasons for going out and buying a new garment?

Mixed erm... sometimes it is actually a necessity as in now when I you know starting a new job I thought I have to buy some more formal office clothes, but more often I would say it is just something that takes my fancy and I decide I've been paid recently and so I deserve it or a treat so perhaps emotion as well aspect to it

Approximately how often do you think you actually go out and buy a garment?

Erm garments and encompassing shoes as well?

Just clothes

Erm I'd say probably I think I'd buy something at least once a month, maybe twice, but I tend to browse a lot more than that and not buy anything so...

And then when you do make a purchase? do you tend to buy one garment or a few?

It depends like now when I was shopping out of necessity I bought five garments but that's very unusual for me I tend to buy one thing especially if it is something pretty special like a great bargain or something then... yeh.

So that is one. How many garments do you think you have bought in the last six months? This is going to be a hard one. It's looking back to April May...

Erm... [long pause] I don't know I may sound like a complete shopaholic, probably, I don't know twenty plus, twenty-five maybe? Yeah yes that's about right

Erm... and then are there any that stick out in your mind at all?

Erm... for what reason? Erm... I don't know there's a few, a couple that I brought up here actually, yer.

Ok then maybe we'll look at them later... And then what brand, retailers or other shops do you tend to buy?

Erm... it depends I go to TKMaxx quite a lot, actually because I think it is quite nice quality but for a decent price. I don't think there's a particular brand there to be honest I bought like everything from Nicole Farhi Jacket you know it was quite discounted to erm I don't know to just other kind of random brands Clements Ribeiro I can't remember the things I've bought there I guess shoes otherwise I buy quite a lot of second hand stuff as well so that's I mean just random just random brands from different eras from different second shops oh Rockets or there is a really good one I go to sometimes in Chalkfarm Road I can't remember the name of it, it's sort of a really tiny one with a hairdressers next to it so narrow and long.

Does it have a downstairs?

Its only downstairs and it tends to slope down and is quite long and is quite a strange one it has this eccentric woman who works there but anyway I have found a few things there.

I haven't been there for years its where I used to live in West Hampstead

Erm I don't know from the high street H&M and sometimes, Zara very occasionally, Hobbs yer I'd say they are the main ones actually.

So quite a mix really

yer maybe Urban Outfitters very occasionally, actually I am wearing a t-shirt from there a long time ago.

So not Topshop? That's quite interesting

Oh actually Topshop yes, I'd forgotten about that I go there but I am not their biggest fan, I don't find that much stuff there so yes, I find a lot of their things quite cheap I am not their biggest fan.

Yes that's the problem the cost of the fabrics has gone up so much you are having to pay more or they are decreasing the quality to keep cost down. You have already mentioned that you buy quite a lot of second hand clothing. why do you think you do that?

Erm... I think that I have got a lot of second hand dresses I just find that a lot of the styles suit me more than a lot of the stuff in like say Zara because I am tall and a lot of dresses from say the 80's and or 70's are a bit longer and I like, they just seem to suit me more. So and I find that a lot are good quality as well and you can pick up an amazing bargain and they are quite different and it is nice to have something original.

And then when you are purchasing something what elements do you consider?

Well everything I guess, the cut, the material, the purpose, of it really the colours have a big impact. I guess where I would wear it, and how it would match with other things I own as well.

Thank you, and then I suppose you have already answered this almost that you don't have a separate wardrobe for work and pleasure at the moment, but possibly you may

I am going towards that

You're going towards that

Yes definitely

What are your main reasons for getting rid of garments?

Erm... no longer wear them, simply, and don't see myself wearing them any more. Or, yes so badly worn out erm... yer, that would be the main reason.

And what would you do with it?

If it's... Depends on the condition if it's sort of ok condition perhaps a bit old and I don't wear it just give it to charity and if it is really bad throw it out or keep it as a like a duster or something Yes

And then how often do you think you get rid of garments?

I'd say Quite frequently actually I'd say every few months actually I take something to a charity shop and I do a big clear out once or twice a year.

So every few months would you say that is almost quarterly?

Erm yes maybe every three months so as not to exaggerate.

Then how much do you think you get rid of?

Erm... to be honest it would just be like a small sized carrier bag at most so I don't know three, four, five things maybe at most.

And then when you do one big chuck out about how much do you think would be in there?

Do you mean as a value.

In terms of size

In terms of size? Erm, four garments do you mean what sized bag?

Because you mentioned that you do small... you discard things regularly in a small plastic bag and you did do at least one big one.

Oh ok so the larger one the last time I did that was at Christmas and it was like the size of a black bin bag? but I think there were other things in there like bags shoes as well.... So probably not that many clothes as well.

Ok probably about half?

Yes, exactly.

And, then to go onto sewing skills. You mentioned that you had a little bit of experience.

Yes I'd say basic sewing skills, yes

And have you ever used a sewing machine?

No I haven't actually.

Just to go through lots of different things. Have you done any of these are you confident in doing any of these things? Have you ever done any darning before?

No, I haven't.

Shortening or lengthening something?

No, no way.

Sewing on buttons?

Yes

Patching something?

Erm... yes definitely.

Slight alterations in size?

No.

Invisible mending?

Would that be sort of I don't know say the lining had split of a skirt and you sort of do it on the inside? Or its that just?

It's when you have a hole or something and you take bits of the thread from a hidden area so you can't actually see the repair.

No, I don't think so.

Major alterations?

No [laugh].

Repairing seams? You've probably done that?

Yes, done that.

Broken stitch work I suppose. Sorry repairing tears and re-seaming broken seam-work. So that's when seams come apart?

I've done that.

Customising?

No well maybe when I was a child but no, not for a long time.

And then, what to you hope to gain from these workshops? Do you think?

Better sewing skills? Yeah and perhaps to be able to alter a garment more substantially if I wanted to.

And what would you say are your main constraints to doing any mending? Or anything like that.

Time probably and I guess just the willingness to put in the time really or make the time. But I think also sometimes its just if its like often I take quite delicate garments to be mended like silk which I wouldn't do myself as I don't know what I am doing so.

Do you go to a tailor quite a bit then?

I go to, actually, I've gone just to my old dry cleaner in Holborn a few times who do tailoring actually I went to a tailor as well on Scicillian Avenue.

Have you done anything to try and extend a garments life before?

Such as what mending? or replacing a lining ?

Anything.

Yes definitely but I or do you mean have I done it personally?

Or got somebody else to do it?

Yer, I've had a coat that I had the lining, part replaced and mended several times but then it got quite worn out on the outside so I think I gave that to charity actually. Yes I've got other things that have just been repeatedly mended just cause I liked them so much.

Okay. What would you do with a garment if a button fell off?

Sew it back, on when I have a moment, definitely

And if you found a garment with a hole in it?

Umm, it depends how bad the hole was, umm I think I would try and get the hole fixed somewhere I don't think I'd attempt to do it myself

And if one of your zips broke or something like that?

Oh God! I'd definitely take it somewhere.

Cool, right. So I suppose this is the time to look at some of your garments that you've pulled out.

Sure, yes I was kind of just in the just in the middle of trying to sort stuff before you came so there might be a little bit.... So you might have to remind me. I'll just have a look at my phone what the categories were actually.

Well I've got them down here anyway.

Yes sure.

So I suppose to talk about your favourite garments to begin with if that's possible.

Yer sure. I think quite a few of the categories do crossover actually erm like there was favourite and and then stuff that I wear all of the time a lot of those crossed over. Yer so I guess ar... this is something actually that I wear to work and I just wear. I don't know am I meant to comment on these?

Yes, well why would you class it as one of your favourites?

Erm I just I don't know it goes with absolutely everything, it just, I love the colour, its simple the fit is really, really nice. it is really easy to wash as well. As boring as that is but yes it is just flattering and nice.

How long would you say you have had it for?

I've had it for erm going on about two years, I've worn it a lot.

Where did you get it from?

I got at Yumi, Covent Garden, Neils street.

And I suppose do you have a relationship with it? Or...

I don't know I guess, it's a dress I always get compliments on when I am wearing it, it doesn't look that special on the hanger but I always get lots of compliments and I feel really good in it.

How often would you say you wore it?

Erm once a week, once every other week but only autumn winter... maybe spring.

And what kind of...[material].

Its polyester despite having said that I like nice materials yes.

Do you mind if I take pictures of these garments?

Go for it, erm, do you want to hang them somewhere?

I don't really mind to be honest.

[Follows a discussion where to take photos]

It's more just a reference it doesn't matter about them looking fantastic... and then I can remember what we were talking about in the discussion. And then did you have another garment from your favourites at all?

Yes I did. Erm... with this is it's what I won't be wearing to my new job or not just yet it is silk and you can wear it all year round. My mum bought it initially but then decided it was too young for her and its another thing that just fits, I love the colour and its fun and I get a lot of compliments when I wear it I never get sick of it as well.

And then was it always that colour or have you dyed it?

No it was always that colour sort of like a tied dyed pink and white.

Cool and so long have you had that one?

I have had it quite a while actually, this is probably one of the things I've had the longest, I don't know up to six years maybe. but I think I had it for quite awhile until I actually started wearing it .

And who's it by?

It is by ATOS Lombardi.

What kind of price point do you think it would have been?

I've no idea.

Do you think its just a boutique?

My mum bought It in Belgium, she was living there at the time I imagine she would have bought it in a department store or maybe she bought it on holiday somewhere I don't know. it would have been bought in Belgium or Italy but I guess in a department store and the price range I don't know I'd say less than 50 euros so ..

And then how often do you wear it?

This as well I used to wear it like once a week yes once or twice a week even.

You have already mentioned it is a favourite I suppose because of many reasons.

Yes, definitely I don't know I just I really love the material, the colours, the fit as well and I don't know I just feel really good in it.

Do you have any attachments because it was your mum's?

I think also erm... even though she didn't really, Its not really her style at all I am quite surprised she bought it to be honest. yes I do definitely have an attachment even if I stopped wearing it I don't think I would put it out because my mum gave it to me.

Cool thank you. [followed by moving around]

Do you have another one?

Erm... yes I kind of remember which... that's the problem I've kind of forgotten what some of the categories were. That was going out in the next few months, this one needed to be mended. That needed to be mended and should go out. But I don't want to put it out. What was the other category again?

Shall we go onto the next one? Garments you never wear but you keep?

Oh yes, so this is another thing, so this was also given to me by my aunt, and it used to have been my mum's obviously from a long time ago cause it has shoulder pads in it. And I took it 'cos its my my aunts. She didn't want it to give it to charity so she was, you know she would rather it went to someone who might wear it. But

I've never worn it. I've had it for like eight months, and its just I don't know I really like the weave and the colours but something about the style is just wrong. Like, I don't know the buttons maybe? Something just looks really dated and yer it doesn't really go with anything that I have so I am keeping it maybe with the hope of doing something with it. But I don't know we'll see. And another thing as well, I might wear this tonight actually. Oh did you want the brand?

Oh it was something like Equation or something?

Yes, I've no idea where that was from.

It's probably been in your family what, for?

Its probably what god... For fifteen years at least, at least. Maybe twenty erm... ok and then I've just found this top I was going to wear actually. I was going to put it on after work. Then I didn't cause it looked really bad. Erm... I got it like again when I was kind of on holiday but visiting family. Yer its just cotton, but this thing sits at the waist but its just quite hard to you have to be wearing sort of high waisted trousers or something. I can't find something that goes with it. Or like a very high waisted skirt so I haven't worn it very much despite quite liking it.

How long would you say you have had that one for?

I've had that for like a year and a half, two years maybe. I do sometimes wear it but it is hard to find something to match with it.

How often do you think sometimes is?

Every I don't know like three months or something

Cool, and then I suppose you are keeping this I suppose because it you were given it by your family?

Yes so then again its kind of it's quite sentimental and actually I do kind of quite like the material. yes I think I'd feel a bit guilty if I threw it out so... oh what...

It's acrylic.

Oh so it's not even the nicest...

Then that ones got the nice embroidery details and things.

Yes.

Who's that one by?

That's BikBok. They used to have one on Oxford Street I do Scandinavian makes. I have acquired quite a lot of stuff from BikBok, yer but not bought in the UK that's the thing. I forgot about that shop too.

So have you travelled quite a lot when you were growing up?

Yes well I grew up in England and Belgium and then my parents after I went to university sort of moved away and went to Spain, Latvia and now Hungary. Because they are Latvian originally 'cos my dad was a working as a diplomat, but erm they were living in Latvia for the last few years and they've just moved to Hungary a year or so ago. So I was going there a few times a year at least. So I go to the big shops quite a bit. Hence there's a mix of things.

All sorts of nationalities of clothing?

Yes, exactly.

Do you have any other garments that you've I suppose kept?

I'm not especially I probably... Actually, I don't know this is something I have mended or I had mended but I don't really wear it as well. Its just a black, black skirt that I bought when I thought I needed a sort of very simple black skirt, but again its something that I don't think its like... it's not quite office appropriate if you need something smart because it is quite short on me, but then I don't know its like quite thin for winter and autumn as well so I don't know. And somehow it doesn't quite fit quite right on me either, I don't know if it is a size too big or it's not a nice cut. So I should probably put it out but I've just kept it because it is a little black skirt. And you know I might need one at some point.

Then what did you do to it?

Oh the lining just split, so yes it was pretty poor quality, it was the first time I ever wore it I think. So I had that mended I didn't mend it myself.

Then I suppose how often do you wear it? Would you say?

Well I've had it for like a year and I've worn it like twice or three times maybe so not often at all... yer.

And these ones are really difficult to try and find...

Oh what its made of? Yer..

Okay and then I suppose garments that you wear all the time. What kind of things are those?

Well a couple of like the pink skirt and the blue dress. Yes I basically wear this and a few other things that I didn't bring because they were not very exciting they were just black blazers and black cardigans, that I wear every other day. Erm... yes just like black trousers and stuff I wore all through the summer, that was one

thong that I used to wear all the time as well. Yer I donk know if you want to see it or? Yes that's a TKmaxx one as well.

TKmaxx. You are obviously very, very, good at hunting through.

Yeah I really like hunting, I know some people hate that shop but I just love it. you just find such amazing bargains there so...

and how often would you say you wear that cardigan?

I wear it like, God, three times a week? Yes a lot.

And you'd wear that all year? Wouldn't you.

Yer definitely, especially in London cause it never gets that cold rarely gets that cold here so...

It can do.

It can it's true, but.

Actually I wasn't in London, I was in Paris when it was really, really cold. Then how long have you had it for?

I've had it not that long actually I bought it this summer, it was before the weather got quite nice, it was maybe june-ish, June.

Then you said you've got er...black blazers and cardies that you wear every other day.

Yes basically I've got a I don't know if you want them? I didn't bring them out cause they were just... I've got a H&M extra long cardigan. There's a black cardigan there that I really like but I don't want to throw out even though its got holes in, so now I just wear it at home. Yes I got that blazer from... I think it was from Oasis that I really like? And I have a black H&M one as well so.

So long black cardie and there is another one with a hole in it so that's two.

And I had a third one that I literally just had to chuck out now. That I also really liked, cause it was a cashmere blend but it got a massive rip down the arm that I thought just couldn't be fixed so.

Oh no.

Yes I probably should have kept that actually, yes.

So these three pieces, so your two black cardies one of which you wear at home, would you say you wore them what?

Like every other day as well. Like I wear something black probably most days.

And the blazer?

Um well, at the moment I think I will be wearing it quite a lot because I will have to be smarter and I wore it in the summer probably like three or two times a week maybe.

But not so much in the winter?

No because it is quite a thin cotton.

Thank you. Then why do you think you wear all of these garments all the time?

Because they match with everything basically yes, and they're comfortable as well.

And the garments you have had the longest?

The pink skirt I've had quite a long time erm... that's probably one of the oldest things in my wardrobe. Yer I've probably got t-shirts from really long ago, but I think this is quite old as well its like I don't know five or so years old probably. Erm... I've got quite a lot of scarves as well which are old and again which have sentimental value that I don't want to throw out for whatever reason. So erm actually another thing as well this is pretty old, but I still really like it as well actually. Erm... yes I used to wear this so much that I wore it to death but erm... yer that was bought from a second hand shop in Belgium like bout six years ago maybe, five or six years ago and I used to wear that like literally every week throughout the winter and spring and autumn.

So six years?

Yes, I think I wore it a great deal.

And how often do you wear it now?

I haven't worn it for now for two months now at least yes.

And then the tee-shirt that you are wearing, how often do you wear that one?

Not very often any more its kind of like a I don't know its a if your just at home or on a Sunday or something.

Is it almost something that when you are wearing it you do wear it quite solidly, cause its in a pile?

Yes.

Almost like a pyjama top or something?

Yes, Not quite that yet because I like the designs but erm yer...

Who do you think that was by?

This was Urban Outfitters I cant remember... I think it was, truly madly or something maybe im not sure.

And then how old did you say it was I've forgotten?

How old? I think it is five or six years old/.

And so why, why would you say you keep all of these things?

Mostly because I still really like them I like the design of this I like the cotton, the cut the pink dress as well like I don't know I just I still love the colour style and stuff... so.

Do you feel emotionally attached to any of these pieces?

Erm... I don't know? the pink dress maybe because I've worn it out for so many like good occasions nothing that sticks in my mind especially but like yer I always have good times wearing it so, much like the pink skirt.

So they both have very positive connotations?

Yes definitely.

And I suppose from what you were saying maybe the black dress as well?

Yes and the blue one that's more sort of it's not like a party fun dress but like I just I still really like it.

And then the newest garments that you have?

The newest yes. Ok, these are really new I got them like a week or two ago they are from? Oh you probably know the brand Promod? It's a French sort of a high street brand I think? I got them in Budapest like for about a tenner I think?

Wicked. So two weeks ago?

Yes.

Have you worn them yet?

Yes, I like wore them three times when I was there so...

I actually feel like they are predominantly cotton with just a bit of wool in there...

Maybe they are.

That's good to be able to get jeans that are almost all cotton

But they have a bit of stretch.

So you said three times.

Yes like within... I can't wear them to work or else I would be wearing them everyday so...

Well you never no. Maybe when you get to know them... dress down Friday.

I got this as well in about May or June also from BikBok but in Sweden this time because I was there for a few days.

And so how often do you think you've worn that one?

I've worn this quite a few times. I didn't wear when I got it initially because it was so warm it's quite thick material.

Oh it's really lovely.

But I started wearing it like at the end of August. You can kind of wear it with leggings cause its too short for me to wear it by itself. So yer, I've probably worn it (I don't know) every week, every other week since August for the last couple of months.

That looks really versatile, leggings and whatever... tights?

And obviously black tops just goes with it as well, yer That's pretty new aw well I got it in Monsoon in like a sample sale or something in Liverpool road. Id quite like to cut it out... maybe in cotton?

How often have you worn that one?

I haven't worn it recently just because its really summery and its quite short it doesn't go with... I have to like wear it with high waisted things which erm... but in the summer that I got it I wore it like at least once a week as well. Well, probably once a week at least.

Ok cool. So I have the opposite problem you are much taller than I am.

I like your boots, though they're really nice.

Thank you. I love them but I can't wear them very often because a bought a size too small I wanted thinking that they would grow...

Oh no its so annoying I have just done that out with a pair of Hobbs boots they were expensive as well but never mind. Maybe they will stretch a bit. Yer...

Yer I've been trying for a year!

I hear you... My mum has had shoes stretched, at erm.. at the cobblers I don't know if that's possible I think they put something that stretches the leather I don't know how well they work.

I should really try and do that then they would be much more comfortable. And I could actually walk all over the place. Any way any garments you've had alterations? You've got the little black skirt.

Oh yes, oh actually that's why I took this out as well. This I have, it used to have poppers on it but then and I took it to the drycleaners and they put this, like a hook on it... so yer. That's also probably one of my favourites but I don't wear that much because it is a bit out there [laugh] yes

So how often would you say you wore it?

Say Every couple of months every couple of months, every three months, not very much.

How long have you had it?

I've had it for about probably two years now. I wore it much more initially and then I sort of thought oh no its too... I don't know. Its too childish or something was not quite right with it then I still quite like it.

Is that second hand?

Yes that's second hand from Rocket and its silk as well so... it should have a label I think.

I suppose... Do you think the fact that you have had amendments on them, has affected how much you have worn them at all?

Erm... do you mean it might have erm... extended the life span?..... yes... definitely, like the bright multi-coloured skirt after I had that mended I did wear it a lot more after that. It just, yer, the poppers were kind of broken and it was just annoying having to try to fix it awkwardly. So that definitely helped. The black skirt to be honest didn't make any difference I didn't wear it more after having it mended. I had a button replaced on that pink skirt just because they wore away or fell off or whatever. And that definitely extended its lifetime, well I would have had them fixed it anyway because I like the skirt so much...

You have had things fixed that you love and wear all the time but also some things...

Yes that I just didn't wear but I think that is quite exceptional like I've got quite a lot of other clothes as well. I've got a silk dress which is just in the wash or otherwise I would have got it out. but I've had that fixed actually two or three times. Just like it's a very thin silk and then the lining wore through and the material was wearing thin as well in one place and actually my aunt did it because she is great at sewing so she was like I'm going to fix this and she did a great job

And to move on have you got any garments that need maintenance? I think you spoke about...

Yes I have a couple of things, well that cardigan there's probably there's probably hardly any point mending it its just its got like loads of small holes in random places and I don't know why if its just I think it must have been when I've been wearing it erm... yer that's one, it's got loads of these all over the place and I don't know where they are from. But I've already had it mended several times and erm yer... they just keep coming so...

So what do you think you are going to do with it?

At the moment I've just sort of kept it for like at home, a bed thing as well.

Oh is this the one you where talking about before? Or is this another one?

Yes, this is the one, yer that we were talking about before.

So is this every other day?

Yes, no, I do have another black cardigan that I do like one that is not this one that I do wear every day but this one is just like at home.

Do you have moths do you think in here?

I don't know, I don't think so.

Or it could just be from washing in the machine.

I think I've had it, I think that I've worn it so much I think, oh I've also used a fabric shaver on it, I don't know if that maybe? Caught or something but... I don't know.

Yes it is very difficult to do.

I have anti moth things hanging in the wardrobe so...

And what do you think you will do with it?

Erm I think I will just keep it for the moment to be honest and maybe if I can fix it then I will but I wouldn't take it to be fixed especially and I wouldn't really do it myself either because as I wouldn't know what I was doing. Yes... and then another thing... this is just annoying the sleeve, but I think I have lost a button this is just something I wear occasionally for work maybe with black trousers I'd try and be smarter I haven't bothered to mend it when it same off so...

When you say occasionally, what once every couple of months?

Yeah, probably every two or three months, there was a period when I wore it quite a lot but and then the button came off and didn't fix it so...

It doesn't really prevent you from wearing it having a missing button? Does it?

No it doesn't but it annoys me. I do push up my sleeves quite a lot but if I'm at a meeting I don't like it hanging loose I need to have it closed so... yeah.

Did you have another?

Yes I had oh yes... something that I am probably going to put it out in the next few months yes it is that white cardigan I've had it four or five years, I kind of, I used to wear it quite a lot in the spring and the summer but I just haven't worn it very much in the last couple of years so...

What about a couple of times a year? Or...

Yes probably that's it probably for last year.

And it would be because you no longer wear it for no other reason?

I think so really just the style maybe I don't know. You probably wear it open with annoys me as well.

Thank you. Erm... right now this is the bit that you might not like... Where do you store your clothes do you have a wardrobe?

Yes I have kinda have two wardrobes actually because my flat mate moved out a year and a half ago and then I sort of, and my boyfriend moved in, but hes not here that much of the time. So I just put my clothes well, my coats and things into the second one and I put my nicer clothes and things into the second wardrobe the back one is its just a horrible its like a... it's in the eaves and one it's like, urm, I don't know it has really rubbish shelves and it is quite low the rail broke so I bought one of these you know one of these rails that you set up yourself and are very cheap but it is not very good quality so hold the clothes and yer it's just not a great wardrobe. As all to store stuff.

And do you have some chest of drawers?

I've got a chest of drawers in there and then the other wardrobe.

And then if you don't mind, would it be possible just to do a quick audit of how many clothes that you have?

Yeah... I guess so do you want to see or do I sort of do a tally or?

Just a quick count if that's ok

Yer sure... Oh God excuse the mess I must put some stuff away in the room.

Oh don't worry, cause were all over the place as well.

[50:32 talking in next room too low to decipher for the recorder]

.....

[1:02:52]

Just to finish with... (I forgot to bring it) [Talking about the recorder] from today's discussion what do you think has affected your relationship with your clothing or what do you think it has made you think about today?

Erm... it's made my think about the fact I am sentimentally attached to quite a lot of my clothes I think. And that I probably have too many clothes simply and I should do a bit of a clear out and probably not buy so many clothes as well.

And then just I suppose because I didn't have this before, you mentioned you had a pink Whistles top that you really don't wear anymore, but you are very sentimentally attached to it can you tell me a bit about it?

Yes well my boyfriend gave it to me in the first six months or year we were together and erm and I do really like it, but I think maybe it is not quite my style any more, and it's, yer, just a very thin kind of quite short top so it is really appropriate for summer and like holidays so yer I don't really have that many opportunities to wear it, I remember wearing it in Spain, or Greece or something it's not really a very London kind of city top.

So it's also kept for holidays then as well?

Yes it's kept just in case, that I might wear it but the main reason is its kept for sentimental reasons.

How many years ago were you given it?

Erm... I was given it like six years ago pretty much.

So most of your oldest garments are about six years old? Aren't they?

Yes, I think that's right actually. I don't think there is anything older possibly pyjamas or things like that might be older. definitely yes, six or eight years maybe maximum. Apart from stuff that was from my mum.

Thank you so much for your time.

Pleasure.

8.2.8.6 Interview 6. 25th Oct 2013 at 4:30 pm.

Recording: 1hr 29 minutes

At the interviewee's home in Finsbury Park

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 6, Lucy

Erm and also as I mentioned before I'd like to take some pictures. Erm of the garments that we are going to talk about.

That's fine.

And hopefully the process should take about an hour.

Ok yep.

Erm and that's fine and I think unfortunately some of these questions you've already given me the answers [laughing]

Ok that's alright just go through them...

Erm first of all could you please tell me what made you volunteer for this study?

The main thing that made me volunteer for this study was that I actually really love clothes erm love fashion, looking at clothes on other people in all sorts of ways like watching strictly and watching Julian McDonald talking about erm how garments are made fascinates me and how garments are put together and looking at how other people accessorise. Etc. etc. but myself, although I like clothes I'm not very good with clothes and in particular what attracted me to this was it made me remember my terrible needlework history dating right back from the very early age at school when I really didn't do well in my needle work class and was the worst girl in the class to quite an extreme degree that I had to be locked in my classroom in order to complete projects and I still didn't complete them and all the other girls used to come along and knock on the window either to tease me or to try to encourage me and ever since I finished my two year o-level needle work course and failed of course I have never taken up erm... a needle and thread again not even to sew on a button [laughing]

Thank you erm and then just I suppose this is for a bit of an understanding. What age group do you fit in, are you the 45 to 49?

Yes I am.

Erm and then if you could tell me a bit about your lifestyle and how your clothing fits into this? For example what you do on an evening weekends, and during the day and things like that?

Erm I'd say there's probably three categories of clothing one is er.. im a very very keen gardener. So one category of clothing is my gardening clothes and in summer that's probably what I wear all the time and that's just erm old, the oldest trousers I have or the oldest dress that I have. In fact I've pulled out my summer dress which has just fallen apart erm summers in the garden being ripped by thorns. Erm and the other category of clothing is the kind that I'm wearing today which is what I call casual everyday clothing I don't normally dress up for erm just meeting friends or you know going to the shops etc. etc. so I would normally wear. These trousers as you can see I just wear all of the time. And erm trousers and tops I wear all of the time and I've got a dress that I wear all of the time so its kind of casual wear things that are easy things that are comfortable is really important for me. I hate being constrained and I hate big thick layers and I tend not to accessorise. Very much although I admire people who do and the third category of clothing is when I would go out somewhere smart so for instance last week some friends got us tickets to the opera erm so I put on a dress, or to go to the ballet or you know if we are having a party or something like that, and then I will dress up and I will probably usually put on either a dress or some smart trousers. Probably a dress.

Thank you and then what kind of work do you do?

I don't anymore happily I have managed to get redundancy. I have done and do still do little bits of contractual work. I am a policy advisor or was a policy advisor erm so for instance the last contract that I got was with Ealing NHS advising them on erm some health policy involving the local community erm so yer so policy advice is what I have done. Really the latter part of my life. I used to work in the civil service doing policy advice there.

And there so predominantly are you at home then most of the time or...

Erm yes although it feels strange to say that because im never at home. Erm we partly live in Cornwall so I go up and down to Cornwall a lot so I probably spend perhaps 25% of my time in Cornwall. And also I do lots and lots and I seem to get roped in for loads of voluntary work so this weekend I'm doing work all weekend much to my partner's annoyance. Just organising for two different local charities. We've got a huge event and we are roping this road off. We've got a huge fundraising event for one charity which I'm deputy chair of and erm on Sunday we've got an AGM with lots of different activities to be organised for another garden charity erm in Islington. So I just all of the time seem to be doing things.

So you are probably busier than you were when you were working full time..

It's interesting that you say that because not a lot of people understand that but when you work you tend to work and then come home on an evening and just you know eat sleep, see friends and that's it. As soon as you've got time you seem to get involved in a hundred different things and then suddenly you've got no time.

And its ironic and you're the first person who's actually said that that your... because I do feel busier than I ever did at work. But its down to me and its doing things that I've put my hand up for which is the difference. So I could say no to them and stop which is very different to when you are at work and can't say actually I wont come in next week. So I know I'm doing this because I've said that I will. Not always because I want to but because I feel someone has to, someone ought to. So I do always feel like im running around.

And then when you are running around, Is that in an office or is it still...

If im doing a contract which er I do less and less of that would definitely be, well I do some of the work at home obviously you cant do it all at home and you have to go in and meet people and go to meetings and erm but when im doing stuff for myself it would be in people's homes or where they are. So you know at different venues yer. Yes so some of that would be at home. But for instance I will be out for the whole weekend doing things at other venues.

And then you mentioned that you spend a quarter of your time in Cornwall so does that mean that you have got a Cornwall wardrobe of garments.

Yes it does actually and that's quite interesting because one of things that I scanned on your list was things that you wear all of the time. And er there are a couple of things... we left in a hurry when I was down there two weekend's ago and unfortunately I left some of my clothes down there and I love having go to things, you know things that you just put on and you don't think you just put on. And I just throw them in a bag when I go down to Cornwall and erm throw them in a bag when I come back and I didn't. So I have things that I always leave down there but clothes that I wear all of the time I just wear all of the time wherever I am there or here so my favourite pair of jeans is down there damn it.

Oh no so you will have to go back again to...

Ill have to go back and get them ! [laughing] How annoying.

For no other reason. So what are your main reasons for buying a new garment then?

Erm well I've got some new garments that I've got upstairs to show you. Two... I bought... we went to France and Spain this year and because it's really hot there hotter than even our summer got this year I bought two lovely, lovely light easy to wear comfortable but beautiful dresses but I are just wore them. We were there for three weeks traveling around. And I think I wore them every single day apart form when I wore shorts to the beach. Erm just washed one wore the other washed the other wore the first just the whole time and it was lovely didn't have to think about my wardrobe. So those were the two dresses that I've bought. I've also bought a pair of walking trousers. Because I don't have a nice pair of walking trousers, but unfortunately they need heming and I haven't got around. I think I've got some sort of phobia of altering clothes I haven't even got around to going to a repair shop to get them hemed and then I thought well actually...

If you wait a little bit...

I might be able to discuss it with you whether we could hem them in one of the workshops.

Yer of course you can.

So I bought these walking trousers because I need a nice pair of long light weight walking trousers so that was the other garment that I bought new erm.. other than that the only reason that I would buy something new is I can, I do love clothes and if I see something that I really love which is rare. It's a rare thing because I'm an odd shape. I'm extreemly tall for a woman and I don't have the perfect figure so most clothes that I see I absolutly adore but they would look stupid on me. They'd either be... dresses are too short for me or sleeves are too short for me. So its only if I see something that I really really like that I would get it erm... so I'm the sort of person who ought to make my own clothes.

And so is it predominantly... do you buy things for need then is that?

I would say that I do buy for need a little bit because I love something. I've got one top upstairs that I bought just because it was very pretty and very easy to wear and I didn't need another top but I bought it but that was just because I was their and saw it and you know I can afford that, why not get it.

Erm and then approximately how often do you buy new things...

Erm I suppose I got two summer dresses this year did I get any last year? I might have got one summer dress last year. Erm... oh I got a new coat I got a new raincoat because I wanted a lightweight coat. I hate heavy clothes. Erm i got a coat two dresses this year erm how often? Probably not as often as most people. Probably buy items like that maybe six times a year. Like just before Christmas I might go out and I might get something to wear over Christmas but only if I saw something that I liked but I might go out looking.

Yer...

And hoping.

Erm and then when you buy something during a shopping trip do you tend to buy one thing? Or more than one? Or...

Erm... I probably would buy, half and half if I'm buying something and I see something else I would definitely bulk buy, you know buy two things so that's not unusual. But I would not go out on a shopping trip purposely to buy many things I would normally go out to buy one thing. But because I'm on a shopping trip you know I would think... you know John Lewis is the kind of place I would often go shopping and if im there I would often go looking for my dress I saw another dress but well I thought that im going to get both because that's... but I hadn't gone out looking for two dresses I'd gone out looking for one dress or two.

So if you were to buy more than one do you tend to buy two rather than three or four?

I'd say yer.

Cool. Right and then you've kind of already answered this but how many garments do you think you've bought in the last six months? You've mentioned a couple of dresses and a pair of trousers...

And a coat.

And coat so four.

Erm oh I bought two dresses separately while I was on holiday because my garden dress has fallen apart and I saw two dresses in France that I thought next summer I could just wear and if they get torn they are just so cheap. If they get torn they get torn. So I that's six things... erm... yes so last six months definitely bought six things.

Erm and then what brands or retailers of shops do you buy from? You've already mentioned erm John Lewis.

Yer John Lewis would be like my go to. If I need something and you know non of us have all day to look for something I know I can normally, 99% find something there so definitely that's my number one.

And it's not too busy it's a nice atmosphere...

It's a lovely atmosphere its got a coffee shop for when you are feeling absolutly like... [exhausted] erm and als I can go there with friends because lots of my friends have now moved outside of London and then when they come up you know its near a couple of museums. You know you can get to museums form their and loads of my friends love going to Liberties so its near to there so you can go to Liberties. In fact erm last summer I got a top from Liberties and I got a pair of jeans in the sale from Liberties, lovely lovely jeans. Designer jeans which sadly no longer fit me. Erm so I suppose for luxury shopping or just for looking at things I adore walking round Liberties. Erm Marks and Sparks I think ah you know if you want something really cheep and cheerful.

Yes.

And they're fine you know.. in fact I think this top. This is an old Woolworths top I think. You know you can get little tops. Got cardigans form Marks and Sparks erm... I love Hobbs, er.

Theres Toast and things like that that are similar...

No I've never got anything form Toast. I love their clothes. It just doesn't fit me. Erm just the wrong sizing for me. There is a shop that I haven't been to for many years. I was going to go to it but two weeks ago because I happened to be in erm essex in Colchester. Called Long Tall Sally and I used to go their at least once a year especially for their sale. But their clothes have changed and they are so horrible now.

Oh no.

Really cheap clothes and really badly designed and they used to be really lovely quality and you know, not fashionable, fashionable but really classic trendy classy clothes but they have gone massively downhill. Although I have got a coat about four years ago from them. Erm who else is good for me? I've particular.. I love White Stripe, clothes, these are I think White Stripe trousers...

Oh and Fat Face as well?

Yes I do things like skiing and I quite like going to the gym and slobbering around a little bit so I love Fat Face clothes especially down in Cornwall you know just doing stuff Fat Face is great and those clothes are good on me that kind of casual look and they're the right size. Erm there's a sports walking company called Rohan these new walking trousers I've got. [phone rings] sorry the phones actually behind you. Sorry it's in a really stupid place. There you go. [answers phone and talks for 1:18 mins]

On the machine somebody showed me how to stitch a straight line and I made a as you can see...

Meters and meters of bunting.

Three hundred yards of bunting. But somebody. But Lizbeth across the road set up a machine and just put it on a running stitch and I could not believe that I did it. Now to me, now you're looking at that and thinking oh my God. To me that is probably the zenith of my sewing career. I felt terribly proud that I'd actually sat on a machine and used my foot to run it cut a bit then used another to run it. Some one else did actually do the cutting and the bias binding. But I did actually sit at the machine and... first of all I said that I would do the cutting and the colour matching and everything and er... Lizbeth said no no this is ridiculous just sit at my machine and do it and I did.

It brings back memories because erm for our wedding we made 200 meters of it.

Oh right, well it takes so long!

Well it ended up my mum kind of took over and all of the people down her street.

Yer, er well we had one person, Graham who erm did all of the colour matching on the floor and erm Lizbeth set up the machine and put me on the machine. And er she did cakes and coffee and everything. And er other people were passing it up and passing it down and the little team of four of us all just sort of constantly on the go and it took us three evenings about three or four hours each evening to do but it is 300 yards so it is a lot. And we use it over and over so when we close the street off on Sunday we are just going to put loads of bunting up and stuff. So it does remind me I have used a machine once since I was at school.

Erm do you ever buy second hand clothing?

Yes I do.

Erm what kind of things do you tend to buy?

Well this was second hand but I didn't buy it. A friend said that I was going to bring this round to the charity shop but I just thought that you might wear it and I put it on and I don't think that I've taken it off since I put it on so I have absolutely no problems about second hand clothing. I went to a swish event haven't been to one now for about two years but about two years ago I went to a swish event where you bring five things and you take five things away and I didn't have any trouble bringing five things to bring and I think I brought back im trying to remember. I did find some thing. I think I found a cardigan and I think I might have found a top but erm sometimes in a charity shop. Because my partner goes into charity shops to look for books, so while hes in a charity shop looking for books because hes an avid reader he buys most of his books form charity fairs so I look at the clothes and I would buy. I'm not even lucky. [phone call].

And then when you are purchasing a garment what elements do you consider?

Erm for me I'll consider fit, cause that's something that is really tricky for me. Er comfort I hate things that are heavy tight, uncomfortable in anyway. And erm... I do like to look decent. Erm just things that are easy to wear and look nice. I'm not really somebody who will think well is that really the latest fashion is that out I'll just think does it suit me. Which is why if I did go into a second hand shop and there was something that I liked it wouldn't matter to me that it was out of fashion unless it looked stupid you know.

Yer.

But as long as its, it looked ok on me then that's fine. I used to be a follower of fashion. But I'm not any more really.

And then this was just about your general wardrobe habits. You've already mentioned that you've got three wardrobes. So your gardening, your just everyday and then your smart wear. That's correct isn't it.

Yer, yer that's right. Yer

Erm and then what are your main reasons for getting rid of a garment or discarding something?

Erm... that its fallen apart really because I'm erm like lots of people I probably wear five per cent of my clothing 95% of the time. So that's small section of my clothes that I wear almost every day I just wear and wear and I hate it when something that I really enjoy wearing just falls apart. So I will waer things until they will absolutly split at the seam. Erm.. things that I don't like I just won't wear and I'll feel annoyed at myself and won't throw them away and then they just get old and out of fashion and stupid looking and then I throw them away finally. I can't if I buy something and it's the wrong thing and its just not right I can't bring myself to throw it away straight away or take it to charity straight away. Because I don't buy a lot when I do get something I think oh I will wear it I'll you know, I'll wear it next week just put it to the bottom of the pile and then erm leave it and then find two or three years later think ok I'll throw it out.

So yer it would take two or three years for you...

At least year to get to that point. Yer?

And then when, what would you do with a garment when you decided that you were going to get rid of it?

Erm if its falling apart it will go in the bin but you know. Other than that I will bring to charity. I will make up a bag and bring it round to charity. Yer.

And then approximately... do you just build up a bag of things? And how often would you get rid of this bag?

Yer im not that organised unfortunately so it would take an event, like packing for holiday and you will be taking out all of your little tops and you will suddenly think God have I still got that? You know there is no way that im going to wear that any more. Or actually that looks torn or whatever... so it will take an event for me to go through my entire wardrobe to find things so I wont stash things in an organised fashion so like today, although I didn't have much time I sort of really desperately getting some clothes out so I was going through and I just found loads of stuff today and er haven't brought it all down but I have found loads of stuff that needs to get chucked.

So approximately how much do you think is there? A bin bag full?

Oh easily yes, probably a small bin bag full. Yep. I just need that trigger really to do it.

So would you say that you did this maybe once a year may be then or...

Yer probably twice a year erm yer definitely if I'm packing for holiday and then there will often be something else you know like you know we have just booked to go away at Easter next year to go skiing so probably then (which will be lovely) so probably then. I'll be going through sort of warmer clothes that I didn't have out today. To really go through. I still haven't got round to putting out my summer clothes and getting out my warmer clothes. Which is why I'm wearing jumpers over thinner things. But I'll probably go through more winter clothes then. I'll probably be looking for some jumpers to take and probably think oh God... I've had that jumper for years and not worn it and then get rid of those.

Do you have two wardrobes then ? Do you swap your summer and winter clothes around?

Yer things like summer dresses obviously you can't wear in winter and because I only wear a small amount of clothes that I have so it will be thick jumpers I wont have in the summer so I'll pull those out for the winter and sort of reverse the pile. I'm terribly disorganized, I'd love to be one of those people that have those you know you see them on tv those vacu bags that you put everything away and vacuum it up and then get out the winter stuff and then that goes to the back of the wardrobe and its put those out and put those where you can get at them.

I know its impossible, I think we've only got a couple of vacuum bags and we use it for our favourite items because we've got a really bad moth problem.

Oh yer...

So anything that wool that we don't use in the summer we try and keep them in those and then hopefully it works.

Yer I erm I ought to be more careful. To give you some idea of how disorganised I am I started knitting a jumper about 25 years ago and stopped half way through it and ive just got it out to start knitting it again and of course once I'd got it out because its wool you know where the moths lay the little tiny tiny eggs I was knitting with someone else at a knot and natter and she was asking about a particular stich because it's a really complicated pattern and she said that you know it's a moth and tits the eggs that eat the wool its not the moths it's the little larvae that eat the... so she pulled toes out and she said that if this came for m a room that you've got any jumpers in the same moth will have left her lave to eat your wool. And I have actually got jumpers in that room so I ought to have vacuum packed them.

Its really hard but if you just stick erm, stick the wool in the freezer for four days.

That's what she told me and that's what I did. Cause I er , the jumper was in a like a craft bag with the balls of wool and she said that you've got to freeze the wool for at least 3 or 4 days so luckily I had space in the freezer at that time. And I did do that.

Yer because we've just had to put Owen's suits in the freezer because they've been attacked.

Oh dear...

Anyway...

It's so expensive and they are your favourite things.

Well yer anything wooly, you've got so much more emotional attachement to.

Yep.

So how much sewing experience do you have?

I did do a needlework o-level course and failed it obismally because I don't think I completed anything and since then I made some bunting last year which was you know using a machine that had been set up for me and that is it.

So would you say basic skills do you think?

Basic, probably not even basic.

So a little?

The most minimum tick you can give me.

Are you confident in using a sewing machine?

No.

No.

No I'm not in the least confident about using a machine.

And then I'm just going to go through a list of things and if you could tell me if you are confident in doing any of them: darning?

No

Shortening?

No

Lengthening?

No

Resewing buttons on?

I could sew a button on but it would be a horror.

Patching?

No.

Slight alterations in size?

No.

Invisible mending?

No.

Major alterations?

No.

Repairing tears?

No.

Reseaming broken stitches?

No.

Customising?

No.

Ok. Erm and then what do you hope to gain from these workshops?

I would love to be able to use a machine. I would love to be able to sew a simple hem, like if I could hem my trousers I would feel like I'm a sewing Einstein. Erm I think if I could do anything above that like simple repairs of tears or anything like that that would be the icing on the cake. I really don't have high hopes about expert skills but if I could get a basic confidence with a machine and a bit of hemming I'd be the happiest girl in the world.

And what do you think your main constraints are to doing any of these things?

Im just not practical so it's the knowledge base and the confidence. And I'm someone who learns by doing and I learn best by doing with others so I'm not... which is why locking me in a needle room didn't work if I was locked in the needlework room with one teacher I'd probably have learnt oodles so I, I think this is a great environment for me with a couple of other people not too big and not too daunting.

And also its supposed to be fun. Its not something that's supposed to be serious and strict.

Yes and you will are not graded or marked or have to pass an exam. Cause I, I get very erm.. I can get very zealous and I can't do a hobby. You know I did a photography hobby course erm a couple of years ago, just one evening a week and I had to get distinction, I just had to I would have wanted to have jump of London bridge if I didn't and erm my partner [...] was just you are mad absolutely mad you did this because you cause I'm not practical I couldn't even use a camera so I just I went on this course and is was a er City and Guilds level 2 so it was like a quite low level course erm and when they went round saying what do you want to achieve from this evening course I said I want to be able to go away on holiday and take a good snap without taking someone's head off and I just want to be able to use an SLR with all of the dials I said that's fine that's fine we will probably have to do a bit more than that to pass the course but don't worry and then erm I couldn't not as soon as I knew the work was being marked and I'd have to bring in three photos that were marked I'd spend the whole week doing the three photos so that they would be the best photos I could do so this is great I'm not being graded and I'm not being marked and therefore I won't withdraw from it. Yer that's great I can have a cup of tea and sew my trousers and that's fine.

And then is there anything you've ever done to try and extend a garments life?

No

And then I don't think I'll ask you these questions because you've... you've never sewn a button back on a garment when it's fallen off or something like that?

I have done but it's not a pretty sight. So I have had to. If I can get my partner to sew the button on I will he is he absolutely refuses and says I'm being stupid and er I have to and I've saved the button after a few months of looking at the forlorn garment with its forlorn button I'll sew it on but it will just be... I know you are meant to make a shank or something so it will be just winding, winding round then I wont know how to stop it unwinding so I'll just sew through the shank so it will be the ugliest. But I have sewn a button.

And then if. You have ever had a garment where the zip was broken or something would you ever get it repaired?

No I wouldn't have the first clue to do it myself. And I think I've probably got a phobia about repairing because I have got things that need new zips like cushion goes and it needs a new zip end up being thrown out. I think also those shops are disappearing off the high street. Where you can get a zip repaired so its not as accessable. When I was younger there was like, shoe repairers used to also do zips but now where do you go for that sort of thing? You have to do a bit of research. To find somewhere.

Yes you do. Cool so if you don't mind could we go upstairs and have a look at your garments.

Of course. That's fine, yer. You have to ignore the mess up here, I have just thrown things around.

Oh no, that's brilliant.

I thought at least I've got them out, that's the main thing.

So, one of the things I got out, somebody gave me this a long time ago, and I thought I'd just get this out to show you. Erm and you asked for something very old. This has been on this thing for about 10 years. The petticoat.

So it's actually just been on the stand for 10 years?

Yer, I mean I don't know whether you could wear it, and its all torn and everything. So I just shoved it on the stand and it's been on the stand. But you asked for things that you love. But I don't know if that includes something that you don't wear?

It's whatever is one of your favourites.

I love that, just love it.

Do you mind if I take a picture of it?

Yer. But erm, I just love it, because it. I wish I was born in the 20's I would have loved to wear something like that you know the way its cut on the bias.

Yer its really beautiful.

And the lace and everything. And do you know if I was an excentric fashionister, I would probably wear that under something. You know wear a lime green silk dress on top just with the hem showing or something. I don't know, do something really, Zandra Rhodes'sy and outrageous with it. But because I am me, I don't even know where I got it now. It might have been... you know you said do you ever get things in charity shops, but it's so old this was the sort of thing.... I've got something else that I got in a charity shop when I was at school...

Oh here we are. This, you can see its not been ... here I dug this out. But I had this when I was at school and it was all the go when I was at school to wear... do you know it probably doesn't fit anymore [trying on] but erm you know wearing vintage clothing was all the go. And this is from the 70's a charity shop in the 70's. Which is probably the first ever second hand item I ever bought. And I loved it it's the same sort of thing as that, I mean it doesn't fit me any more but... I just love the shape of it you know. And I used to wear this, when I was, a teenager all the time. And it was considered so fashionable then to wear vintage clothes in the 70's. You know. And it wasn't always form the second hand shop or what ever.

And erm I just love that 20's and 40's look, erm but even this you know the. So I couldn't ever throw that out cause its my very first, even though I probably will nevere ever wear it again, but you know I do...

You asked for something that I love but I don't know if that includes something that I don't wear any more?

Erm so you haven't worn this since you were at school then?

No. I probably, I might of worn it for a year or two afterwards. But er.

So it hasn't been worn for what 30 years.

Oh easily yer, yer.

Erm, and then your dress can you remember when you bought that?

Do you know it's so old I can't even remember? It might have been the 80's I suppose.

Erm have you ever worn that one?

That one? No, no, no.

So that's something that's probably the only thing that I've ever bought and never worn, at all. And I just er I think it was from a second hand shop. Erm but erm in the days. This is from a second hand shop that I used to wear all the time, this is something else that I erm haven't worn for years but I used to wear this absolutely all the time and its from a second hand shop. And I just adored... I just wear it with like a little silk body underneath. And I just used to wear it everywhere all the time. An you know I just love the fit of it you know again its got that shape. Erm.

It's really pretty....

It's so pretty, and it was just from a second hand shop in er.. Hackney. I just loved it and wore it and wore it and wore it. And it wears and washes. Its really... it looks delicate but its not . its really thick, probably even homemade. I don't know? Yer I think it is homemade.

Its all been bound as well. Yer.

Yer I would never have noticed that.

Erm so how long have you had that on for?

Oh this, probably the 90's, I probably got this in '95... I used to wear it and wear it and wear it and now I don't think I could do it up. But I wouldn't get rid of it because I just love it. So I wouldn't throw it out.

So these three garments I suppose.. what do you think your relationship is with them?

I think I think that that I just like it, erm this I keep thinking that I'll loose weight and I'll wear it again which probably isn't the case but I don't like to admit that so I'll probably pretend that I'll wear this again but I love it. It's too personal to get rid of. Erm and I don't have many clothes that I'd say that about.

Yes

Erm but I'd probably say that about that. And then what was the other thing?

Er it was your jacket as well.

Erm my jacket yer, it's just the first ever second hand thing I've ever bought and I'd just it's stupid really but I'd just... I suppose I might get rid of that some day but like if we moved I probably would. Erm but its just it just reminds me of schoold you know the different time.

Do you mind if I just take a picture of your broidery anglais erm.

Is that what it is? [laughing]

Really lovely. So do you just have very good memories from wearing this one?

Erm yer its funny but even just talking about it I think of my cousin who who is like an identical twin of mine. There were thre of us one in Ireland one in New York and one in London and it was really funny the three cousins we have all got different accents and we all live in capital cities in different countries and we all look identical and we are all the same stature the same colouring and er even now when I look at that I think of my cousin in New York cooking for the whole family a lovely beach bbq with prawns and her little girl whos about three eating these huge what they call prawns, you know. And I've never seen a little toddler eating seafood like that. And I remember her saying I love that top will you get me a top like that when you go back to London and I went back to the same second hand shop and got a very similar lace work and posted it to her in New York. And when I put that on I used to think of her in New York wearing [laughing] in identical cotton wearing identical clothes. Because we are all the same build I suppose clothes that she would see on me and then I liked her shoes so she took me to the shoe shop where she got her shoes and I bought the same shoes and we wore the same shoes on the holiday everyday we put the same shoes on. So it just reminds me of things like that. And this even now I remember going out with my friend Eve and going out we used to call it clubbing in those days not like nowadays and we would just think that we were the bees knees in our vintage jackets and looking back its so silly but you know. We just thought we were the absoloute business you know. And going to all of these little dens that you used to get then and it used to be so easy to see great bands and things which it isn't now because its all big business but then you could just see people. Go out and see huge names and not book up in advance. Just turn up in a club and there they would be and you would have an absoootely fantastic time. And it just reminds me of all of that in a nice way. Not in a nostalgic way. Just in well that was nice teenage years to have you know and what a nice times they were you know weve got different nice things now. But it sort of reminds me of all of that ths is the sort of jacket that I wear now. You know you said something that I wear all of the time and if its not raining I hate big heavy clothes. I've got a rain coat that I wear all of the time but this would be the jacket that will go over almost everything that I've got.

And how long have you had that one for?

Oh erm this is a Marks and Sparks one. Oh you recognise the little lable and I've probably had that one for oh... God. Probably 10 years. You can probably tell from the fluff coming off it.

And how often would you say that you wore it in the winter or is it autumn as well?

I'll wear it even wear it in the summer if it's cool. Or I'll wear it autumn or weather like we have it now I'll wear it all of the time. In winter if its not raining I'll wear it rather than a coat. Erm and in spring I'll wear it all of the time unless its raining that will be the jacket that I wear.

Ok

So I don't have a huge selection of clothes and if Ive got something... it's a sort of wear al of the time thing.

Erm do you have any garments? So the first three garments were they your faviorite garments as well as garments that you don't wear?

Er well this is a little top that I got in the second hand section of Liberties. So that's like an example of a favourite item because its light and its easy to wear. And I just love the fabric. I love the print. So that's like a favourite item and erm I've got another favourite somewhere...

And how old would you say that was.

Oh that's probably only about three or four years old.

And how often would you wear it?

In the summer I'd wear that a lot I was miffed because I didn't take it on holiday because I was having a limit to how many clothes you can bring and erm I got my new dresses and I thought you do not need to pack that top because I always bring it on holiday with me. Erm so where is....

So would you say about once a week? Then in the summer.

Yer... oh no maybe once a fortnight. But I did have a couple of other things that I absolutely love and I wouldn't be with out. Now where have they gone? Erm... err.. I thought I'd brought them down. There's a Maremecko top which I just wear all of the time. Oh where we are there. So not only is it something that I wear all of the time but it's a real favourite I just love it and I love it because its slightly elasticated. It's very long and I adore the print. I just love Maremecko prints. So that's a real favourite as well as a, I mean that will be washed and ironed and then the next time it gets washed and ironed it will go on again so this will be worn in the next week and then as soon as it gets washed and ironed it will come out. And just not only is it practical and worn all of the time it's my absolutly faviourite garment.

So probably once a week? Then do you think?

Yer or once a fortnight because erm... yer just when I do a load of washing.

And then how old is it?

Probably about four or five years old. And its as good as new, it just washes and washes and washes. Yes so that was a favourite, that's a favourite... and erm I fished this out as a faviourite it's a bit of an unusual choice, but I've got a few favourites but I thought I'd try and get something a little different that is really a favourite, and this is so unfashionable and so hippyish but I really love it and I love it because its cotton and its easy to wear and erm I just like the ethnic quality to it.

And where did you get it from?

I got it form a tiny little shop in Wales. I was on a weekend in Wales, I got two actually I got a black thick like a winter kaftan and they were so cheep that I couldn't resist them I think it was erm 10 pounds each and they are such thick cotton and so well made and it was just an independant shop that did all sorts of quirky things.

I've got some cushions floor cushions in there just got a few bits and bobs silk fabs and things which I gave away as Christmas presents. So just an independent shop that I just happened to pass on the way to somewhere else. I just popped in with my friend Helen from Manchester and we both got kaftans [laughing].

So how long ago do you think that was then?

That was probably about six years ago. As you can see I don't update my wardrobe every year.

Erm and then how often would you say that you wore it?

In the summer I'd probably wear that once every three weeks maybe. So it would get a lot of wear in the summer and in the winter I would still wear it in the winter even.

At the same kind of frequency?

No, no maybe once or twice over winter. If I could get away with wearing this somewhere, like if I knew I was going away somewhere really hot. Like lets say I was going to erm the Balkens to see a film or something and I knew it would be hot in there I would no I could get away with wearing this and I'd put it on even though it was winter. So yes I do like wearing it. Erm and I say it's a favourite because I know it's and unusual item to choose as a favourite because its so ethnic looking and so hippy looking and so unfashionable but I actually love it.

Can I take a picture of it?

Yes.

Its erm its so that ive got a record of everything that you are talking about, you see so that I can erm... so weve done your favourites and the first three were I suppose they were garments that you keep but never wear wernt they?

Yer... keep but never wear... well I did fish, I never wear it because its also a favourite. But I've never worn it, it's not as if its not a favourite any more.

And then this one? Is that a favourite as...

This one, they but also I don't. I will keep it and will not get rid of it but won't wear it. And the same for the vintage jacket. Yer and I have got one.. oh no.

Ok erm then and then gatments that you wear all of the time?

Garments that I wear all of the time is suppose weve done them a little bit, I wear that all of the time erm I wear my jeans all of the time. Ive left my favourite jeans down in Cornwall so I have my second pair of jeans which are just Gap jeans. They are just denim. Denim bootlegs I always just wear bootlegs.

Are the just cotton or do they have stretch in them?

They've got stretch. I love stretch trousers and these that I'm wearing as well are stretch aswell.

So your favourite pair is this pair. How often would you say you wore them?

Well my favourite pair is in Cornwall so these will have to be my stand in pair and jeans I will wear for three or four times a week

And how old would you say this pair or the other pair is?

About two years. Just because I wear jeans so much I had to replace the jeans.

So they have a higher frequency.

Yer jeans do get worn 'till they fall apart and then they get thrown out. Even when they are absolutely falling apart I still wear them in the garden. So that's a wear all the time, that's a wear all of the time and that er.. oh yer I got this jumper out as a wear all of the time jumper. Erm I've got several small lightweight tops that I can wear underneath that's, which will keep me warm without making me feel bulky.

Ok and erm...

Actually that's inside out.

Where did you get that one from?

I got this from one of these shops that does clearances and it was the Monitzilka clearance shop on Marylebone High Street that has now gone sadly. Because I've got a few things there. I've got a suit upstairs that I got from there and it's beautiful silk suit and I just love their clothes because they fit nicely they are really lightweight but they are nice and warm. They are just well made good fabrics so I just wear and wear and wear them.

Erm so how often would you say you wore that one then?

Er.. well now that its autumn and winter and even into spring I'd probably wear that at least once a fortnight. Once I get it out I might even wear it everyday you know. Might put it on you know for four days on the trot until it needs washing and then it won't get worn for a week or two and then I'll wear it for another four days on the trot.

And then how old did you say it was?

This one is probably, oh probably about eighteen years or more.

Ok.

30% cashmere 70% wool. And that's what it feels like on. It feels so soft on I didn't even realise... it's only when you asked what it's made of that I've realised it's cause its cashmere that you can just its so nice to wear. I love clothes that feel nice.

I don't think I took a picture of your big coat.. lets double check.

Oh what the brown jacket?

Oh no I did take a picture of it its fine. Thank you...

And things like t-shirts that's what I'll wear with my jeans just a tshirt like that like a Gant t-shirt or something like that. Again because they are thick cotton they are really nice on and they are not tight. They are not cut under the arms or anything like that they are just proper cut for a woman rather than a little girls cut.

Yer

Which a lot of fashion... I find a lot of women's fashion clothing nowadays which didn't used to be the case is reall skimpily cut. Whereas people like North Face, Gant are cut really nicely.

Its difficult because they all have their fit models so it's what ever they decide is their ideal body shape. I suppose Topshop is very straight and others that are much more curvy it's really difficult...

And it didn't used to be like that. I used to love Topshop as a teenager and erm no go into Topshop and come out with bags of clothes that were lovely.

Er, and then things that you have had for the longest.

Things that I've had for the longest. Erm what have I had? Oh this which is er...

Is it a dress?

No it's a top a long top like a tunic top, and that ive just had for the longest longest time. And this cardigan which as you can see is an old peruna er and this marks and sparks jumper probably, this ive probably had for about 12 years maybe even more than that.

And do you still wear it?

Yes I still wear all three of these.

And this one is it more summer? Or do you wear it all year round do you think?

I'd wear it all year round yer because it's thick and its warm I mean you need a jumper but I've got several erm cardigans and erm shawl, er even a jacket over it or a cardigan.

Erm and....

In fact it's often too hot unless it's a cool day in the summer to wear it in the summer funnily enough because its an odd thing. I got it because I liked the print and I liked the length. And I like the cut of the arms you know because its so comfortable. Erm and I just like the detailing on it I just thought its pretty but the when I wore it one day when it was quite warm it was just too hot, because of this lining, so you do need it to be a brisk summers day .

A brisk summers day. And then how often would you say that you wore it?

I do wear it a lot though. I do find occasions in the British climate to be able to wear a warmer top.

So do you think once a month or?

Easily, yer easily.

And then your cardigan.

That cardigan is oh, god that must be about 10 or 11 years old maybe.

And how often would you still wear it?

I probably wear that less often now. It's got a little bit torn so you know you could only wear it sort of round the house or to go to the shops you can see that the stitchings come apart at the top.

Yer.

Erm I'll probably wear that maybe six times over the winter, I'll probably get that out and wear it you know two or three times and then wash it and get it out a month later and wear it two or three times and then that might be it. I've fallen out of love with it but I don't want to throw it away. It's probably one of those garments that I ought to now throw away.

Ok. And then I suppose the same for this one.

Yes probably not as old that was probably got about eight or nine years ago but just washes and washes and washes and its so easy to wear. You know with my little t-shirts and things over jeans. That will be worn over winter over and over and over again. I'll get that out and wear it maybe for three or four days and then wash it and then when it comes out of the wash ten days late and I'll probably only do a coloured wash maybe

once every week and a half. It's a heavy things because they are so difficult to get bone dry and then when it comes out I'll wear it and wear it and wear it.

Erm and so for the clothes that you still wear dependent... it doesn't matter about the age its more about how you feel about them?

Absolutly, completely. Yes I am this is a dress that I will wear. I love this dress. It's not perfect erm but I love it again because it is a stretchy dress so its so comfortable to wear. And I'll wear it in the summer as it is and I will wear it in the winter too I'll just put thick tights on erm maybe even put this over the top of it. A pair of thick tights and erm I haven't forgot Ugg boots but you know those type of boots.

Yes,

And I'll just wear ... if its cold I'll do it up if its not I'll have it open er maybe with a jacket on top and that will be just an easy wear and something I'm comfortable with. But how old is that dress. Erm that dress is probably six years old. And gets worn all year round. It gets worn as a summer dress in the summer and gets toasted up with tights / boots and top in winter and I'll wear and wear and wear that. So is that in fashion six years later? So not but I will wear it.

But does that really matter though?

No not to me it doesn't really matter any more it did you know probably even when I was your age it really did matter erm into my 20s and 30is I would go shopping a lot and turn my wardrobe over but now its about erm, and also I don't go out... I used to be great for going out you know every night I used to really never ever be in you know just music and clubs it didn't mean the same as it does now when I say clubs it would be like to hear live music and then to dance all night. But I used to love clubbing and erm going out all of the time and used to party and dance and everything and then you know it was part of the fun dressing appropriately and fashionably. I don't do that now, I love gardening, coking reading, you know tonight I'll watch Gardener's World then I'll watch Strictly Take Two on play again and I'll have a lovely night tonight because I'm going to be out all weekend. You know doing voluntary stuff so you know my life is different. As you get older your life changes so you know if I'm in cooking do I have to be dressed fashionably? No I want to be wearing my nice comfortable dress and my jeans and so its different.

Erm your newest garments?

Right my newest garments. I've got two dresses, one is still on the washing line erm and my other dress is my favourite dress, I can bring it in if you want to have a look at it? They are both East dresses and I got these for holiday this year. Do you want me to bring up the other one?

Erm

Which is sort of a similar type dress but its got little silver sparkly things on it. Its longer, it's a similar dress you know, are these Godets?

Erm yep.

Its got like the panels in it and its also from East and its just longer more sort of 20's looking and a deeper blue and its got sparkely bits in it so I wore that one in an evening if we went to a restaurant or whatever and I wore this one in the day. For just sight seeing and walking round.

Then the... how many months would you say?

I got them in July. Got them both in July.

Ok

And I've got a pair of trousers not worn. A few pairs of trousers actually. These are the trousers that need hemming, so they are new and unworn.

[... phone]

I don't. I find it quite interesting that she wants to do a Friday night [talking about my next interview].

Yer, because most people just want to chill out on a Friday night don't they.

I know.

But these these are walking trousers erm which I erm I love going to, in Cornwall I walk as well. And I also love the Lake District and I do actually like doing proper job walks you know going out in the morning and going to sort of a climb and then coming down again you know sort of six, seven, eight hours later. Erm and I thought I ought to have some proper light weight because if you've got heavy trousers on you will be amazed how it can wear you out. I've got some proper light weight walking trousers but look at the length of them and they said this its so that you can make them to the length you want them, and I thought I can do that I can hem them I can. Then I thought I can get someone else to hem them, and then I thought I can go to your workshop and do it there.

Erm so when you...

So they are new this summer.

So your dresses you wore them everyday on holiday?

Everyday

And then have you worn them much since?

Yer I have I do actually when I came back in mid September it was still warm we still had warm days so erm... this has been washed for the last time now and it will get put away and the other one washed and out on the line so I wore them both yer. Erm just weve got a theatre up the road so I wore them to the theatre one night, one barmy evening. Erm and just around when we went round to some friends for dinner, just literally about five minutes walk you can see their window from here and I wore one of the dresses yer.

Ok

But they wont get worn again now sadly.

And then your trousers once you've had them, once you've altered them. How often do you think you will be wearing those?

These are specialist trousers so I would only wear those down in Cornwall for walking or up in the Lake District so probably on weekends when the weather is right for it and I'm actually going on a proper job walk. You know they're not just for a little half hour walk. But I couldn't be bothered to get changed for that but if I was going out for the day on a walk erm so they probably wont get worn that often but when they get worn they will be prefect maybe once or twice a year.

But then they will last for ages.

The will last for ages they are well made and they are also lightweight packing so they are easy to carry. So yer.

Cool erm you don't have any in the category garments that have had alterations? Or repairs do you?

Erm... any garments that need alterations or maintenance so you've got those trousers, and these trousers. Oh where are they I had another pair of er.. new trousers that ive never worn. But these sadly are form last year I think and I got them again thinking I would have them taken up and then I realised because they are slightly flared how will that work? So I put them to the bottom of a very big pile, can't bring myself to get rid of them and they're the sort of thing that if I don't do something with at your workshop I will probably wait a year or two and then finally it will become clear to me that I'm not going to wear them and then will get given to charity.

So you've never worn them have you? And...

Because I thought they would be easy to get taken up. And I hadn't even investigated it because I suddenly thought that because of that flare can you take them up even?

You can take them up it just means that depending on how flared it is obviously it will get slightly narrower the higher up that you go.

They're a bit flared so that's not a problem.

Erm and then it will just become a little bit of a problem when you turn it so so you would want to have a smaller seam. You know a smaller hem. Other than that it shouldn't be a problem.

Well with my new found skills...

Exactly or we could put some binding on it...

I'd like to start on the easy one and then erm... so I've never worn these.

Erm and then any garments that you think that you might dispose of in the next erm couple of months?

Yes. That's the pile I've found over there, I found this pile of clothes which I don't even know what they...

So there are what about seven or eight?

Oh yer and this I mean I don't even know where these are from. This I think is from when I was at school this dress.

Yer... right which one shall we talk about?

Well the ones I can remember... well this one I can remember getting oh this must be 20 years old and its from American Gap I remember actually getting this in Gap in New York and it must be well look at it it must be easily 20 years old.

And when do you think you stopped wearing it?

Oh...er oh god at least 10 years ago, it was at the bottom, all of these were at the bottom of a big pile of clothes. This I can't even. This I don't know I can't even remember wearing it. Don't even remember wearing it. This I do remember.

So for these you are just getting rid of them because you don't ... haven't worn them for a while?

Yer well it's. I wouldn't wear this now its out of fashion erm and this really is out... it's not that I'm bothered about fashion but this would look weird to wear now. This would look a bit weird, erm and it's, it's um, it's just not function in it. This I don't know ... I do remember this dress and I think it was from when I was at school you will see by the look of it and you will also see there is absolutely no beauty in this no vintage in this its just an old...

So its probably 30 years old would you say?

Yes I would say... yer. And this is from the height of hippydom but not beautiful hippydom this was something that I bought with Saturday girl wages and probably wore once or twice when I was trying to be super uber hippy cool going to some sort of folk club up in the West End you know some sort of smokey

little dark den. In fact I think I remember the folk club that I wore it to called Bungys which sadly no longer exists to hear somebody like falph mc tell I think. [laughing]

Yep.

But it's you know... it's really thin cheep Indian cotton but at the time I probably thought... I was you know. Height of hippy chic [laughs]

So you've worn this what maximum twice over 30 years? Is that right?

I probably wore it when I got it maybe once or twice and er that was it yer. I don't even think I'd give that to charity as I'm not sure they would use it but I could cut it up for bunting.

Well I'm sure if you were going to give it away I'm sure they would take it.

Yer somebody might take it.

One other thing?

One other thing? Well this maybe. Again... I probably used to... I do remember wearing this a lot. So Laura Ashly cotton top and again I think its from the 80's form the look of it. its got a sailor back on it. And you know you just would not you know even at the time I shouldn't even been seen dead in it. But believe it or not that was how it was ok at one time ok to wear. You know people did wear little tops like this [laughing]. Especially in the summer, you know and when Laura Ashely was ok to wear. But that was so eightys and it was in this pile.

So when do you think you stopped wearing it?

Oh god early eighties probably.

And why do you think you've kept some of these things for such a long time and you are only now...

Thinking about getting rid of them? Well because your list prompted me to look in corners that I hadn't looked in. I mean that... these things are in a pile together and this is not, this is a pile that I've probably ignored up their. Erm because its not a pile I had any reason to go into in the bottom of the wardrobe. This was actually hung up at the back of the wardrobe which is from, probably 1980 and what is it doing there? I don't know. Erm.. so its probably had no reason to look at them or think about then or. It's not like more resent clothes that I would have worn more recently I would have looked at and thrown. So this is like really old stuff that I just haven't... ever had the time or inclination to go through. There's always something better do be done. I don't know im at a loss really to think of something intelligent to say as to why they've just got left. It's not because I'm fond of them in anyway. It's not like this, that I would say no I know about that and I've kept it. These I'm thinking I could use that space so much more effectively at the bottom of that wardrobe. Erm... yer

And then just to finish off... where do you store all of your clothes?

Erm I've got a room upstairs where I just, it's just a spare bedroom actually where I just pile, I've got a wardrobe up there so I put the clothes that I wear like you know these clothes and then I've got a pile in the corner of clothes. Like jumpers, t-shirts and I've got a linen cupboard that I have my linen in you know my bedsheets and tablecloths and things like that and I put t-shirts in there erm... yer.

And do you have a chest of drawers or anything like that?

Yes and ive got a chest of drawers on the landing where I put things in there I've got a chest of drawers just here you can just see the corner of it on the landing.

Yer.

And I put things in there erm... yer and that's it really.

Erm cool. And then I think we are kind of running out of time so thank you so much for all of your help and then this is something I don't know whether you would be interested in doing? But I've been asking people to do a... to work out how many garments they've actually got or different categories.

Ok yer I can do that.

So erm I might just get you to guesstimate one day so if I email you across this and you don't have to go through absolutely everything.

Yer. So to just give a sort of best guess without actually going in and counting them. Yer yer I could do that yer. If i have to get things out and count them it might be like... 3 weeks later im sorry Emily I haven't got round to this.

Well unless we...

I know what I've got. So probably so... well things that I wear I know what ive got so yer I could definitely do a guesstimate.

Well how many t-shirts do you think that you've got?

Erm probably got, one two three, I've probably got about 20 t-shirts because I wear a lot of t-shirts.

Erm shirts?

Shirts, I probably got, even just here... I've probably got, I've probably got, shirts, about eight to ten.

Eight to ten. Jackets?

Jackets, one two three... three I wear three.

And how many do you think that you've got that you don't?

Erm.. I've definitely got that one that I don't erm and I've got another one that I don't actually.

Coats?

I've got erm... I've got one, two, three four here erm five , six I've got two heavy ones and a raincoat. Seven.

Camies or strappy tops if you've got any.

Yes I have. Yer like little summer string tops I've probably got about six.

And dresses...

Erm dresses er I've got dresses like this that I would wear to the ballet or something like that that dress that I would wear all of the time and the two new dresses that's four and then I've got two other dresses in France five six erm.. six and I've probably got one that I cant even think of so seven.

Seven. Skirt?

Skirts, I wear less often I've probably got... that I wear, about four? and I've probably got about four that I don't wear any more.

So eight in total. So jeans...?

Jeans I've definitely got two, three, four about four pairs of jeans in various stages of newness.

Trousers...

Er... one two, two that I wear and two that need something done with them that I've never worn.

Shorts

Shorts I've got two.

Erm and I don't know whether you've got any of these but all in ones?

[laughing] No onsies I'm afraid no.

I've had to put that in as there've been a couple of younger, girls that have got loads and loads of them so I've had to get an extra.... Erm jumpers.

Oh jumpers I've got quite a few. Probably I've got about six.

And cardigans?

Cardigans I've got loads probably about four or five. Five say.

Ok cool thank you so much for your time and do you think that what we've done today has effected your clothing habits or?

Yes it's made me, well its certainly made me think about that pile for sure. And er it's also made me think about the type of clothes. I hadn't realised the type of clothes I wear. Cause I never unless I was packing and then I'm usually in a mad panic erm but actually thinking about favourite clothes, old clothes... clothes I love I've never thought about clothes in that sort of way. You mean you do but not.

You mean memories'...

Not overtly yer. It's made me think about how I feel about clothes and not something I think about usually. Next time I go shopping it will definitely about what I'm looking at.

Well thank you so much for your time.

No no that's fine its been interesting for me actually.

8.2.8.7 Interview 7. 25th October 2013. Evening

Recording: 67.43 minuets

At the interviewee's home in Islington.

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 7, Bea

Erm... I suppose first of all if you could just let me know why you decided to volunteer for this?

Erm... I was interested in the erm.. mending workshops that you spoke about erm and I like clothes and fashion. I don't feel like I'm a very fashionable person but erm.. yer I was interested from that point of view as well.

And then just, so that I can get a ratio. What age band do you fit in - are you the 30-34 would you be?

No I'd be 35 to whatever.

Okay erm.. and if you could just so that I can understand your suppose clothes and clothing habits if you could talk a bit about your lifestyle what you for an, evening and weekends and things like that and how your clothes fit in to all of this?

Yer so erm.. I at work. I work Monday to Friday nine to five for the NHS in a clinic seeing patients as an audiologist, so I have to dress quite smartly for that erm.. not too businessy but I have to look clean, smart, and well dressed. and at the weekends I don't know I guess I just wear whatever; my jeans quite a lot, er quite casual. I dress up a little bit more if I'm going out somewhere in the evening erm... depending on if it was the pub meeting friends erm.. I might wear my leather jacket and stuff like that but if were going somewhere really nice I'd probably dress up; dress, nice coat, handbag, and stuff like that.

Yer

So er now that the ratio of having a lot more time wearing work clothes than leisure clothes.... erm I guess I have more smartish clothes than casual clothes.

So you basically... well you don't work in an office but you work in a hospital. So that's almost the same thing.

Hum yes, yep.

Okay. Erm yer it's just a general. Erm and then just to understand your general shopping habits what would be your main reasons for going out and erm purchasing a new... new item...

I guess more for utility erm... more than anything.... erm. I don't buy a lot clothes erm... my sort of philosophy nowadays is if I am going to buy something that's a big purchase I might try and get something that's like a more natural fibre or by a good quality producer so I might spend a little bit more money on a big item like a erm.. sweater or something out of wool or something. Erm, I don't really shop in Primark and Topshop and stuff like that erm.. I try to avoid disposable fashion really. Erm... And I'll also buy things because, erm, if my work clothes get a bit worn out or a bit tired, I might go to M&S and buy so.. A new skirt, probably just one skirt, and I get through a lot of tights and stuff like that so I'm just kind of replacing stuff as well.

Yes. And then approximately how often do you think you go shopping?

Erm... maybe not even once a month, maybe once or twice over two months or something like that. So, not often. If it was just tights or socks I'd pick them up along the way wherever, but erm, yer, I don't go shopping, shopping much at all really. I go in charity shops more than anything and I browse and if I see something I might pick up an item there, but I wouldn't be looking at anything specifically generally.

Erm... and then when you do buy something do you tend to just buy one thing or do you buy more than one?

Erm... one thing normally I think.

Cool erm.. This is a difficult one. Can you remember how many garments you've bought in the last six months?

Erm... where does that take us back to. Let me work that out to make it easier.

About in April or May

May, June... so April or May...erm... that was round about the time of my wedding and I did buy erm just a couple of items because I wanted to have a dress and a cardigan to wear the day after the wedding something new just to kind of carry on the excitement and wear something fresh so....erm... let me think how many things erm.....erm...probably eight to ten items over six months.

Yer because your dress you'd probably already bought before the wedding, hadn't you because you are organised.

Yer I bought a vintage dress anyway.

Oh gorgeous.

Anyway. Yer.

I was still making mine the day before.

Yer, classic. OK.

[laughing] Yer my mum got the champagne out, afterwards. Erm.. cool and what brand and retailers and other shops do you tend to buy from?

Erm... okay; well, I said charity shops already. Erm... M&S for things like tights, erm... pants, and socks, and bras maybe. Erm... er... I quite like, I like independent boutiques erm.. but I can't really afford to go in them often; I tend to avoid them for that reason, but if I said I was going to buy something like a new sweater or a jacket I might look in a few different shops and pick one and buy it so there's one up in Islington that I've bought a couple of things from called Wild Swans and they mainly stock Danish, Swedish kind of garments in natural fibres, utility, or other sort of styles.

Ok

Erm... anywhere else that I shop in?er... no, I don't know.

And then you mentioned that you buy a lot of second-hand clothing

Yes

Why do you do that? Just out of interest.

Erm.. I feel like it's a form of recycling.

Sorry I'm just checking the recorder.

I feel like it's you know reusing something pre-loved. Erm.. so it's not in a landfill and it's useful you know and if it's, if it's a good quality item and you can find something good, then it can go on more years while you own it so er... I sort of like that element of it and you can pick up stuff so you might pick up a dress like a Whistles dress which I wouldn't afford in Whistles but if you find it in a charity shop it's a real bonus. Erm... and its like the thrill of the chase isn't it. It's a real buzz to find something good.

Erm.. and then when you're buying something what, what kind of things do you consider before you actually make the purchase?

Erm.... What it looks like on...eerm.. If I really need it; like erm... when I was younger like when I was a student 18, 19, 20 I would've got my loan, gone shopping, and bought stuff. But I don't shop like that now so I'd probably say to myself okay I'm looking at a dress right now. Have I got a similar dress? Do I need this dress? Can I afford this dress? So they'd be some of my considerations. Erm... I'm just a bit obsessed with buying stuff like hand knitted jumpers and stuff as well so I might seek out little things like that, erm... I always have a little rummage through shoes, handbags, and sweaters.... coats, and stuff like. Just to look for sort of quality items, vintagy items,. and stuff.

Cool. Erm... and then you've already mentioned this so you have a separate clothes wardrobe, or do you kind of separate your work clothes from your...?

Erm... in the wardrobe?

No, do you just consider that you've got separate things?

No. They sort of crossover really. Ermm...cause some of my work outfits would be just quite a lot of black clothing lets say black skirts, black tops. So at the weekend if I was going out for drink and I wanted to dress up a bit smart, I'd be in jeans and a black top and a jacket and I might use work clothes for that. So there's a bit of cross over, yer.

And then what would be your main reasons for discarding a garment or getting rid of it?

Erm... sometimes I just stop wearing something and find it sort of lingering at the bottom cupboard or something. Ermm.. Some things that I might have really loved and again stopped wearing them after a while.... I guess if something gets broken or something.... but I can't say that happens to me a lot; like erm... I would probably be more inclined to hang onto it and think about fixing it whether I got round to it or not.... ermm. Oh yeah, one thing I would probably add-on may be to the earlier bit: I do go into TKmaxx. I really like TKmaxx..... Erm... and I do have some purchases that I... things I bought in TKmaxx that I thought were a good idea at the time and got blinded by the price and then brought it home, wore it once, hung onto it, and then took it to the charity shop, that sort of thing.

But you are kind of recycling it then...

Yah, uhmm

And then, if you were going to get rid of something, what would you do with it?

Umm...I would take it down to the charity shop, basically. If, if I had anything that I thought was of any value to someone else and that I could sell for more money... umm.. I might put it on eBay or something like that....ermm... I can't really think of anything I've done that with for a long time tho', because I don't tend to buy stuff that's that posh. I know, I've got friends that do quite a lot but ummm yeah I don't really do that too often and I've got nothing of value to sell really so I probably hang onto those things. Yeah... erm...My husband always says to me no, no, don't take it to the charity shop, we'll sell it at the boot sale, because we have boot sales sometimes, erm, and I'm like.... no, I just want to get rid of it. So if I, if I do take stuff up to charity it sometimes has to be quite sneakily because he'd try to make me hang on to it, but I quite like just to get rid of things... so....

A clear out?

Yeah.

And how often would you try to get rid of things do you think?

Arrh...Little flurries every sort of four months or something.

And then, how many things would they be, would they be in a Tesco carrier bag.. or?

Yeah, probably half a Tesco carrier bag, yeah..

Ummm.. and then to go onto sewing skills...How much...ummm.. Sewing experience do you have?

Arrh.. are you talking sewing machine or sewing... with your fingers ... or..?

Well anything ... I've got kind of none, a little, umm, some, I've got basic sewing skills, or I'm happy to follow simple patterns, and sew or alter garments.

I've got basic sewing skills, I think.

And then, are you confident in using a sewing machine?

Umm...I'd say I can use one, but I wouldn't say I was confident.

A little..

Ummm, And then are you confident in performing any of the following kinds of mending? This is just to gauge where I'm going to focus all the workshops at ...

Darning?

Ummm... No

Shortening or lengthening something?

No.

Sewing buttons on?

Yes.

Ummm...Patching?

Yes.

Slight alterations in size?

Umm, no, not really, no.

Invisible mending?

Er, No.

Er..Major alterations?

Er, No.

Repairing tears?

Err, Yeah, Maybe.

Erm... Re-seaming broken stitch work, so it's when things kind of come apart.?

No, not really, no.

Customising?

Little bit, yeah.

Cool, umm... and then what are you hoping to gain from these workshops?

Umm.. I'd love to use a sewing machine a little bit more.. erm... because we, we own one, but it probably needs retiring to be honest because we inherited it from my Nana who was a haberdasher and a big sewer and maker and everything. Erm its from the 70s and its probably not electrically safe...(laughs). Errm..So I'd like to get maybe a new sewing machine.. erm.. and use that coz my, my husband's probably better than I am actually; he's, he's made clothes and things like that, he's got some skills with a sewing machine more I have been and I would quite like to learn a bit more of a sewing skills so that I could maybe even make garments myself.. erm.. From patterns and things like so...ummm.. I've just always put it off.. erm.. coz I've not had time to go out and maybe do a course or something like that. So, yeah, it's a chance to have a little go on sewing machines would be good.

Yeah, definitely. Well, you never know, your machine might be still OK, coz my Mum still uses hers, and that must be at least as long as old as I am, so 70s...

I would have thought, it was probably one of her wedding presents.. she's...

In fact that's it, there, in that horrible brown piece of furniture, that's acting as a side table.

Oh, it's a proper...

Yeah, it opens out so its got... erm.. like a side table, and a .. Its hideous, though, its really....

OK..

Like we don't want that as furniture, really in our new house...

No..

So that is another reason to get rid of it so that we could sell it, or recycle it to somebody who could benefit a bit more and not mind what it looks like.

Yeah, my mum has one that you can carry around...its probably one of the.. I don't know..

Umm.. OK. Is there anything you have ever done to try and extend a garments life?

Umm...Yeah, I've patched up holes, um... normally in a sort of really loved item. Umm... um. I've, I've got something to show you actually.... and there's another item... I went to.. umm... a Swishing event. You know about Swishing, yeah? Umm.. and at the end of it there were some ladies from... oh, what's it called, Trade, some ladies from 'Trade, sewing, and they'd brought some machines and this, that, and the other, and I picked up a cardigan and changed all the buttons on it for all vintage selection of buttons. Umm.. So a little bit of customising like that.... really enjoyed that, that was good.

And then...This is just kind of.. another quick thing... what would you do with a garment of yours when the buttons fell off?

I'd get a button the same size and fix it. Generally, yeah.

And then if you found a hole in it.. would you...?

Umm... Depending where it was. Let's say it was visible. Umm..... I'd want to mend it, but whether I got round to it... or whether I could find actually a needle and thread in my bombshell of a flat is actually another matter, so that might be reason why I don't end up...

Doing anything...

And also when I have fixed some things in the past it just comes undone anyway and that's a bit frustrating so that kind of put's me off doing it as well...

*I suppose if you've spent a lot of time and energy on it, it get's frustrating..
and then if a zip broke, or something like that?*

I wouldn't know how to fix that, to be honest. I might watch some U-tube videos and consider doing it. Err.. If I really wanted to get it fixed I might take it down to a shop in Upper St, that would mend it for me with a zip, or may be my sister in law might help me coz she's really fantastic at anything like that, doing..... 17.08

This is the lady in textiles...?

[name], yeah.

Cool, OK. So we are going to go onto your garments now, if that's OK...?

OK. Yeah.

So to begin with.. Your favourite garments?

Ahhmm.. It's these ones here...

OK, So we've got the leather jacket..

We've got the leather jacket... Ummm ... (sorting clothes).... that is a pair of old Levi's..... that I've had about five years. I used to work for Diesel and Levi's and I owned a hundred pairs of jeans and I love denim, but now I own two pairs of jeans and they are both Levi's. There is a baggy pair and a slim pair and I have realised that's all you need. (laughs).

So what, what happened to all your other ones then?

Umm...I think... I just gradually gave them to charity or gave them to friends; sometimes friends would borrow them... you wouldn't see them again. Yeah.

Gosh...A hundred pairs of jeans...that would take up a lots of space...

Yeah, loads. I used to get them free or whatever, so...

Umm... This one's...

So.. That is a vintagey dress that I got from the vintage shop that I wear to weddings, and it's just a super bright colour and shiny and the shape's really lovely and it's got little cap sleeves and I just feel quite glamorous and quite fun when I wear it so...

Sorry, so how long ago did you say you had bought it?

Umm... I bought it between one and two years ago.

And umm... How often would you wear it?

Umm... I've probably worn it three or four times this year... to parties or weddings..

[Start taking pictures of it...] So why would you consider this as one of your favourites?

Umm... Because if I was going to something where I had to dress up, which doesn't happen very often.

Umm... It would be one of the first garments that I would think about wearing, if it was suitable, because I just really, really enjoy wearing it, and I don't feel like anyone else would wear something like it, really...umm..

The back's really lovely, it's a really nice detail.

Umm...I like little bows on the pattern and stuff, so...

And then your jean's – I suppose why would you class these as one of your favourites as well?

They are a real go-to item. Umm...I can, I can dress smartly in them or I can dress really baggy and messy in them. Umm... and they're cotton with a bit of stretch. Umm... I don't know... I just enjoy wearing them and I like utility wear and stuff like that, so...

And how often do you think you, would you wear them?

Probably every weekend.... I tend to go from work clothes to pyjamas, like I don't get changed in the evenings really unless I'm wearing something that I wouldn't want to crease, you know: Then I would probably just get in my pyjamas. I don't go out in the evenings and if I did I would be in my work clothes I think... so.

Cool.... and you would probably wear both of those all year round, do you..?

Yeah, yeah.

Cool... and then your leather jacket.

Uh..uh

Why would this be one of your favourites?

Umm... I just, I love it. Because, well, I have only owned it between one and two years, and when I bought it, it was a big purchase for me because it wasn't cheap, umm... and as soon as I started wearing it I just thought oh my God I can't believe I have lived my whole life and not had a black leather jacket to wear. It just felt like something I should have always had in my wardrobe but didn't. And, umm... again it's just one of those things you can.. like I can wear it with my orange dress that I showed you and feel really smart, but cool, or I can just wear it with my jeans and a really crap jumper and just still feel, you know, with it. (laughs).

21:36 And how often would you wear it?

Umm... Maybe...Well, its weather dependent as well. Umm... If the weather is like, clement and it's not too hot for a leather jacket I'd probably wear it every day, if I could. Umm... I, I wear my raincoat a lot, because umm... I'm a bit square like that, like I don't like getting wet. And err.. So if I think the weather might turn I will just always default and just wear that as it's just easier and I don't have to think about it. (laughs).

So you probably wear this predominantly spring and autumm, do you, or..?

I think so, yeah, yeah, and summer nights.

Cool. OK. So.. Garments that you never wear but you've kept?

Arrhhm... oh yeah, these..

So.. Got a t-shirt..

Yeah.. A t-shirt from Gap. Umm... I have a few of these horrid shapeless vaguely grey or white t-shirts umm... that I think I had a phase of wearing for work clothes, and then one day I just realised how horrible they look and I just stopped wearing them (laughs). They are just shapeless and horrible. Because you, after you have worn them a few times and washed them they just seem to become very big and unflattering. Umm... but I haven't got rid of them; I don't know. They just haven't made it into the charity bag, I guess.

And how old do you think these things are?

Umm.... Probably about four or five years old.

And umm...when did you think you last wore them?

Umm... I can't honestly remember, probably at least three years ago. Unless there was a desperate day when I really had nothing else to wear it would be a real last ditch thing, or I was desperate for some pyjamas, or something like that it might go on in that situation, but then it would mean washing it and then putting it back in the cupboard again, so I just try to ignore them. (laughs).

But you probably wore them quite a lot... when you first...

Oh loads. I wore them loads, but then I thought My God what am I doing.. so.. not any more..

24:11 And then.. a pair of trousers.

Yeah. They were some work trousers. Umm... I think I used to be a bigger dress size. Umm... because I moved house about four years ago and my old work journey took five minutes walking and my new work journey took 30 minutes walking. So I went from doing 10 minutes of walking a day to an hour of walking every day and I lost weight and these trousers didn't fit any more and to the point where I thought they just looked really, really ugly. Umm... But I hung onto them thinking well maybe I would put weight on and need to wear them again... but...

Ingredients? (looking at? fashion label ? type of material)

Yeah, I think they were probably a TKmaxx.

So... just in case. I suppose you never know.

Well yeah, that's it, yeah..

They might be a good fit soon..

So when do you think you've stopped wearing them then?

Umm... four years ago. I think umm... I think I didn't, I sort of hadn't owned them very long when I lost weight as well – so I think, they were still almost new so that's another reason that I didn't get rid of them because its not even that they were worn out and I could throw them away or take them away to a charity shop or something.. so ... yeah..

So they are about four years old as well.

Yeah, something like that yeah..

So its more... for those, its because you don't feel like you have had the wear out of them?

Yeah, mainly as they don't fit now. But also because they seem just like brand new. If I did fit into them I would probably wear them because I like them, but they just look awful, they are too big.

Yeah...That could be something we could attack...

Oh... (laughing, sounding pleased).

26:31 So this is a kind of a cardigan isn't it?

Yeah...

So how long have you had this for?

Probably three years. It's a TKmaxx purchase. Umm... I'm not quite sure what frame of mind I was in when I bought it. Umm... I don't know, my, my husband really hates it. Umm... If I wear it he goes "ohhh, you're wearing that horrible polyester cardigan that sparkles". Umm... He's a bit of a fascist in the kind of natural fibre sense. So, umm... yeah... and I don't think I like it and I probably shouldn't have bought it sort of retrospectively. But it is different and actually when I wear it people are like: "Ooh, I like your cardigan". Umm... So, err, yeah, so I just, err.. haven't got round to getting rid of it but I think I am going to ditch it I think. It's an interesting shape. If you open it this way, it's just a huge big square, oblong, with a couple of sleeves in it. (Laughs). I think this kind of shape of garment kind of went out of fashion as well – you know, the big long cardigan. So, that's another thing.

So do you think you have ever worn it very often or...?

Probably like a grand total of ten or so times, probably not that many.

OK.. Cool.. Umm...So you are not really necessarily attached to them, per se...?

No, these are probably all things I could get rid of now, to be honest, next time I have a clear out.

Umm. OK to go onto garments that you wear all the time.

Yup.. Umm... Ok... Yeah.. So... (gets out a garment).....

This is really nice.

Errr... That's from Kew which I think is like... almost a sister to Hobbs or some such brand, do you think?

Is it umm.... I'm trying to think...

They have umm... like high street outlets and there was a shop on Upper Street in Islington, but that shut down actually since I bought it. I bought this in a sale. Umm....

I think it might be with Jigsaw. I might be wrong though.

Umm. Yeah...

Umm... so how long do you think you have had this one for?

Umm... probably three years.

And how often do you wear it?

Umm... I'll wear it to work a couple of times, so may be over one or two weeks I'd wear it a couple of times and it goes straight in the wash and then its worn again so its either being worn or rotated amongst what I'm wearing and then it would be in the wash so its just really regular.

Really regular, cool. And why do you think you wear it all the time, why is it one of your staples?

Umm... I.. It's quite silky, it's very comfortable, it's got a nice kind of collar thing like a cowl neck thing going on, and I really like the pattern and the colour. It's a bit different; boldish but not too crazy. Umm...yeah.. That's why really.

30:17 And then you've got a skirt as well..

Yeah... I think that's just an M&S skirt. Umm... it just makes me feel quite smart when I wear it. It just gives me quite a slim sort of line. It's quite, umm... what's the word, pencilly, pencil shape, a pencil skirt. And very stretchy and comfortable, easy to wash.

Sorry, just looking for...

It's got a lining in it.

Just check the composition... it's wrong...

Umm... and how often would you wear this?

Umm... that's another garment. So, this week for instance, I've probably worn it three days out of five.

Umm... so while it's what I call clean er.. and wearable I'll wear it a few times and I can just wear different tops with it and then either a cardigan or a jacket, and just create lots of looks with it and coz its black and a skirt, you know...

So a few times a week...

Yeah.

What, a couple of times...

Yeah.

And how long have you had it for?

Probably about a year, maybe not that long...

So yes, this all more to do with I suppose functionality, isn't it?

Yeah, and this as well, if you want another one, if you want a third one; is this little jacket. This is from Uniqlo.

And how long have you had that one for?

Umm... probably... I probably bought it in the last five months, this one. I liked it so much, I thought about going back and buying another one actually. Cause its stretchy, cottony, and it washes, washes in the washing machine very easily, but I feel reasonably smart when I wear it, and I can wear it with loads of different outfits. My black skirt, my patterned dress, like it goes with anything really..

To buy another one in a different colour?

Yeah, maybe. Yeah, yep. I sometimes wear it with my sort of jeans and stuff at the weekend. Seems to work with that as well.

So, this is what, an everyday thing, I suppose, is it?

Yeah, an everyday one, and it can cross between work, smart stuff, and then going out stuff as well.

Ok, then... And so its, it's just.. because it just goes with everything that you have got I suppose.

Yeah. Mmm...

And then.... Garments that you've had the longest, or the oldest?

These..... (whispers). I was trying to think there was a third one, well we have got two there. That vest I don't know how I've hung onto it for so long but I probably bought it when I was 16 from the Bay Trading Company, which I don't even think exists any more.

No, it went under.

But it never seems to have worn out and it just seems a good shape for me for some reason and it can be worn with anything, it's a black vest, wear it with my jeans.

So how often do you wear it then?

Not often I'd say, obviously more in summer, and... twice a month or something, in summer.

And how old do you think it is?

Umm... 19 years old.

And so why do you think you have kept it... or..?

Arrm... still functions, arrm... it looks a little worn out but that is kind of a fashion anyway, umm... and its just a very functional thing really, like why buy another one... you've got one that works. So... Yeah...

Yeah, and then a coat... so how long have you had your coat for?

Umm.... I got that roundabout 2001, so 12 years. I got it in a sample sale. A really expensive coat, and got it for next to nothing errm... when I used to work in fashion. And it just seemed to be a really good purchase like I don't think I thought about it a lot at the time because at a sample sale you might tend to buy a lot of stuff you don't need, but this jacket has never really gone out of fashion and it always looks very smart when I wear it. It's very slim, nicely tailored and when I wear it people comment on it. People like it, people ask where I buy it from, you know, even on the bus people come up to you and go "Oh I like your jacket, where's it from". So... Yeah...

So do you still wear it quite frequently then?

Umm... I wouldn't say frequently but I wear it wear every year in the right season I guess like an autumnny or springtime because it's quite fitted so you can't fit many sweaters under it to keep warm and umm... yeah... that's it really I guess umm...

I suppose it is a nice take on mac, really, isn't it?

Yeah, yeah.... basically.

Umm... And so... how.... would you say you wore it about twenty times a year, do you think?

Umm... Probably ten.

Ten

Yeah..

Cool... and then... so why... why do you think you are still wearing it after all this time?

Umm... I think it just... it looks nice, it fits well, and it's a little bit different I guess.

OK... *Cool...*

Still looks pretty new. You can wash it as well.... I have put it on the washing machine before now and it comes out pretty good afterwards, so.... (laughs).

Umm.... Your newest garments. You've already mentioned your ... ?

These ones.

36:37 So we've got a bra. And that's just because of necessity really..

Yeah... Uh uh. (agrees)

Umm... And have you been wearing it quite a lot then.. or...?

Yeah... I bought umm... I bought a couple of bras, umm... and I also had, I owned a sports bra anyway because I couldn't have any bras with wires in them. So, umm... I went to John Lewis and got measured for a bra, and I bought a.... I'm wearing it at the moment. It's quite a padded, neutral coloured bra, err... but without any wiring which is quite structured and quite good if I'm wearing a white shirt or something like that. This is just a more comfortable bra. It's just 'from the minute' M&S. It doesn't do anything for your boobs, it makes them look awful so you can't wear it under anything that's fitted because people booby like... mmm.... umm... so I rotate between these three bras that I've now got, basically.

OK.. And when did you buy them, can you remember?

Umm... four weeks ago.

Cool... And then we have?

Well umm... these, that's outfit, that's actually umm... under, so it's like skiing garments, so you are supposed to wear them under your ski outfit, but I bought them as pyjamas. (laughs). Because... err... because we don't have much heating in our flat and I just felt the impending winter coming and thought I want some really ace pyjamas, and umm... I really like Sweaty Betty. I always try and buy a pair of trainers every year at Sweaty Betty because I mostly do walking. So instead of bus pass I buy a really good pair of trainers to walk around in and I always love the stuff they have got in there so I just had a little eye on their sale so just picked up in the sale, the crazy pattern, they are quite warm, and stuff...Umm.. yeah.

Umm. Sweaty Betty...

I look like a space invader when I've got them on. (laughs).

Do you ever have just plain black with the top or do you always have them both together?

No, I generally wear them both together. Sometimes I just wear the bottoms cause the top it's very sort of tight, not uncomfortably tight but umm... err... the neck line.. oh that's the bottom.... yeah the neck line of it comes up quite high around my neck, cause obviously if you are skiing you don't want any air getting in and its quite like sszz... so its good if its really cold, but errm... if it's not very cold at night I might get a bit tired of it being all the way up around my neck.

And umm... So how long have you had those for?

Umm... About eight weeks I think.

And.. umm... how often do you wear them?

So I will probably wear them a week or two as pyjamas and then put them in the wash.

Cool... I and then any garments that you have had alterations or anything like that?

Arrm... Not alterations but things that I have mended or changed. Is that the same category? Yeah.. so it is that pile with that sweater at the bottom. Yeah, so this one I bought in Swish and then changed all the buttons. Umm... I think it still has an original button.. oh no it has lost it... oh no that's it... They were the original bottoms all the way up umm.... so I have just replaced it with some different buttons and some of them I picked up from the actual event where they brought a lot of buttons with them, so like these one's at the top. And then some other buttons I have picked up over time so like this other button I got in Raystitch cause I just really liked it. Its like a weird sort of wood thing, and I do have some other buttons to sew on it but I have just not got round to it.

And when was the swishing event, can you remember?

Two years ago, I think.

And umm... how often do you think you wear it?

Umm..... Not much now. Err... I do still wear it, maybe like one weekend out of four or something. When I first got it I'd wear it like every day. It was my look.

Cool. I really like the big one at the top.

For a while it had a huge, huge button that was like this big, and umm... mother-of-pearls like a really funny shaped button, and err... it fell off or smashed, I think it fell off and smashed, and I was like, I can't sew it back on.

Oh no....

I recognise this one. I got all my bridesmaids to wear this in a different colour.

Oh really.. OK. (laughs).

Yes, cause I knew it was going to be really cold.

So... Ah...

Cause we got married in May and the weather just went nasty.

Was it... yeah.... So, I actually bought this cardigan in a charity shop, I didn't even buy it from United Colours Benetton. I'd seen other people with this cardigan and admired it, cause I loved the pearls, the pearl buttons. Umm... And it appeared quite newish when I bought it and I wore it quite regularly and then over time umm... I wore out the elbows and they got holes in them.

Oh gosh yeah...

And I had an old brown suede bag and I decided to cut circles out of it and patch the elbows so umm... I sewed these on but I actually had to, I had to punch the leather coz it was so thick that I couldn't get the needle through it, so I had to go and punch all the holes through it before I could sew it on.

Yeah, leather's really difficult,

Umm...

You've made a really good job. So when did you get this do you think?

Umm... four and a half years ago. Probably bought it in a charity shop..... Patched the elbow a year ago.

They are doing the same style now.

They are, yeah...

And then how often do you think you wear it?

Well this has become part of the pyjama wardrobe so I wear it in bed for warmth in winter (laughs). So I would only wear it in the winter months and every night unless it was particularly mild in which case I wouldn't need it and then wash it every so often.

Wow....

Derr derr... (laughs)

This one, actually, I don't know if you want to add it or not, but this one also fits in the oldest garment category, I forgot. Umm... I was given it as a gift by somebody who went to Peru when I was 15 years old, so

20 years ago. I had it 20 years and it probably didn't get worn for 16 of those years until I went home about four years ago and went "Oh my god I've got this amazing jumper", and brought it back to London with me.

Oh is this when all the Nordic....

Yeah, this sort of jumper was in fashion and stuff. It's particularly nice cause it's got, its quite poofy round the shoulders and stuff – it sort of puffs out a bit, its quite feminine.

Oh, It's lovely.

So it's developed a hole. Here. It came undone a little bit. And.. umm... It was just in the right place so every time you put it on your thumb would go through it and this would make the hole a bit bigger and I was wearing it nearly every day: I'd come home from work and kind of put it on cause it's very warm. Umm... And this actually is a little... I just did a little sample of crocheting to sort of try out some stitches. And it's just a nice little bit of crochet I had and I just thought "Oh, I'll sew that over that silly hole and it'll err... fix the problem" which it did. So... (laughs).

And umm... So how often do you wear it then do you think?

Umm... In the winter three or four times a week. Its not much of a going out jumper, its more of a wear it at home jumper.

Cool. (Whispers – I like that one...)

If I see others like it I'm like shall I buy it, and I'm like I don't need more than one of those (laughs)

Any garments that need maintenance or alteration or anything?

Yeah.. OK... it's these ones here and also my tights that I didn't take off to show you; but erm.. this is a pair of Falke tights err... that I pay a lot of money for and they have developed a few holes. So one of them here in the heel, which I have never had before in tights. It's here. And a big hole in each toe as well, which is the most annoying thing because my toes go right through it and I really need to fix it. But I ended, I end up not getting round to it, washing them again and then wearing them again and going "Oh no, I forgot about the holes", so...

Oh no... How old do you think they are?

They are not that old. They are probably... they're probably a year old. I've probably not worn them that many times. I think they got the holes quite quickly. I probably got them last spring or something. Not even a year old then I think..

So you probably just wear them when you have run out of tights.

They just generally make it back into the tights rotation because I never take them out of rotation, and so I just put up with them, but they do annoy me, and I want to fix them.

That could be for the darning...

Yeah, (laughs)

cool.. so some trousers..... umm... so, what's wrong with these?

So.. They keep developing holes down the seams, and there is quite a bigish hole here at the moment... OK. And they are just the right tightness so that they'll be reasonably tight on the calf muscle and then if you bend down or sit down it will just go tsscht a bit more. And they went up here as well near the beginning and I don't think they're even that tight on this bit I umm... I sort of did some really rubbish sewing up but the material is so cheap and a bit what... horrible that it didn't really do it very well. So... but I do like wearing them... umm... but... yeah... They are from Topshop, one of my very few Topshop finds...

So how long do you think you have had them for?

Umm... let me think... umm... A year and six months probably, a year and a half.

And how often would you normally wear them do you think?

Errh... Mainly in the summer time, and I'd wear them five or six times through the summer. I'd probably wear them more but they have just got this... the holes going on with them...

Yes, just really annoying. You'd almost have to stick a piping or something over the seams coz the.... the thread is just so fine..... Just falls apart.

Umm... I got this in err... a charity shop actually and it's a, it's a Primark. I just like the pattern of it. Umm... So, it lost the button.... umm... yeah, on this side and..... it was actually just flapping down so you couldn't even wear it so I just put a couple of stitches just to hold it, but it doesn't look the best when you wear it because it's a bit wonky but it's still a good dress and it looks nice and I love the green colour of it, and... So I would sort of fix it up to look better, and I would wear it more.

And umm....

It's a kind of going on holiday dress or it would get worn a couple of times in the UK in summer I guess.

So this is going to be perfect for November?

Yes, I'll probably take it with me, yeah..

51:16 And then any garments that you are thinking of getting rid of – is that this pile here?

That pile yeah...

So just some black trousers...

Umm... They are French Connection trousers that I got in TKmaxx, and I don't know if they are seconds or something, but they just look awful: They look a bit like a sack of potatoes when you wear them.... umm.... I think they are supposed to sit high up, high waisted but they are a little bit baggy almost around the bum and this area and they just don't look good and I don't know... mmm.... yeah.... very ugly, even if you put a belt on and stuff as well.

And they are wool as well...

Yeah... yeah... umm... when I saw them I thought oh great a really good quality pair of work trousers and.. But I just thought they're awful, they look awful.

So have you ever really worn them or...

Umm... I've probably only worn them two or three times to work, and each time I've been like "ohh what do I look like today, wearing these was a mistake", so I'd put them away for a few months and then be like Oh I'll try these trousers again, you know, but then think no, no....

So when did you buy them do you think?

Arrh... Maybe two years ago?

OK... So for that it's purely because it doesn't fit very well?

Mmm... yeah...

And then this skirt?

Umm... A good friend gave me that skirt and I think it's really good quality because she probably wore it for four years before she gave it to me and then I probably wore it for four years. Umm... it's a little bit big, nowadays for me, it doesn't quite fit. Umm... and its such a bold pattern, and I wore it for about four years and quite regularly that I just thought I don't want to wear it any more... so it just went out of fashion with me basically, and stopped wearing it.

So you're just a bit bored with it, basically?

And I was going to get rid of it to charity I think.

OK... So you've had it, what, about four years?

Yeah, but its probably about eight years old.

It's probably linen, isn't it..

Yeah... it looks a bit like linen doesn't it.

And how often do you think you would wear it now?

Never.

Never. And when did you stop wearing it, do you think?

Last year, last winter.

And... umm... some more jeans?

Yeah... umm... I probably bought these three years ago. I felt that I wanted a really big bell-bottomy shaped pair of jeans, but they are good at the bottom but at the top they are a little bit hipstery and then I lost a bit of weight so they are not only hipstery but a little bit baggy and thoroughly unflattering at that point. Umm... and I think they are not long enough in the leg either; they hover slightly too much above the shoe, where they should be, and combined with feeling like they are too low and fall off they are just not right really, not right for me...

So, sorry, you have had them two years did you say?

Umm... three years.

Three years. And, who are they by, do you think.

They are Gap. But I think they are something like Stella McCartney, Gap... a collaboration or something.

And.. So how often do you think you would have worn them?

Umm... never much to be honest, umm... at the start when they fitted better, probably only three or four times over six months..... They just feel a bit unsexy I think... so...

And so for these it is just fit issues, isn't it, one way or the other?

Yeah.. fit, length...

So from this, how do you kind of feel about your clothing really, what... do you feel much emotional attachment at all, or is that....?

Yes and no really. Err.... I think, as I've got older I became a bit more secure about wearing clothes and knowing what you should and shouldn't buy and its good to buy something that lasts. Ummm... I also, sort of, my living situation – I've lived in this sort of cold flat that's being renovated for the last three years and my priorities in that sense changed to the fact that I just want to be warm (laughs) umm... when I come home from work and at night times. So I find myself craving things like jumpers; I don't crave like trendy tops, dresses and this that and the other so umm... yeah, sort of umm... I value that above everything else really. So, like, you know I wouldn't mind sort of getting rid of stuff. I don't think I'd be heart broken if I lost any of it, I don't know.

Umm.. And then do you have some of your clothes in storage if you have already said you got a lot of belongings in storage at the moment?

There's a...I think there is a couple of bags of clothes in storage..... And some of it I can't honestly say what it is. Some of it is probably shoes, umm... and probably things like belts and accessories... umm.....

So how long has it been in there for?

Err... Two and a half years?

So it's going to be interesting to see how you feel when you get it, when you finally do get it.

Yes, I imagine I'll probably get rid of a lot of it, really...

And how big do you think these bags are, about..?

It's probably not... If you put it all in one gigantic bin bag; it's probably not a lot more than that.

And then, umm... where do you store your clothes at the moment that are in the flat, in the house...?

Umm... some things hang up on coat hangers here, and upstairs I've got a large chest of drawers which has got socks, pants, t-shirts, jeans, jumpers, stuff like that...

Cool..... wicked... and then umm.... I suppose, if you don't mind, if you can try and remember what you have got as well, I wouldn't mind doing an audit of I suppose, what you've got. Umm... So how many t-shirts do you think you have got?

Umm... Probably more than I think I have. (laughs) Umm.... Goodness me... Shall we go up and have a quick look?

If you don't mind..

Its probably one of those things where you can grossly over or underestimate. Umm... So lets say there are two in the wash. There are two in there as well. There are two there. Lets call it four downstairs. We'll have a little look upstairs.

(Clatter, clatter as they walk upstairs) *You are not going to know what to do with all this space.*

I know. Hopefully we'll create some great storage.

You must be desperate for M to umm... have a bit of time off.

I mean like I call that a top rather than a t-shirt. It's like a black satin....

OK so we are going to have tops as well.

That's a top, that's a dress..... Umm... That's like a half length t-shirt sleeve. Would that be a t-shirt or...

Yeah ... *that's a t-shirt. So these are tops aren't they, so that's three.*

There's loads of things in here....

And there is a dress on your left. Two dresses. And what are these, these are kind of jumper things aren't they.

There are about five dresses in here I'd say...

Including the one's on the floor.

Yep..... err... Probably... those t-shirts downstairs..... probably about nine t-shirts I've got.

In total?

Yeah...

And then are these the only tops?

Umm... there is a couple more tops in here: so there's three there isn't there...

So five in total..

What about shirts?

Shirts: yes please...

Separate to tops?

Yup.

OK. I've probably got about two shirts to be honest.

Two shirts.... Mmm.... Jackets?

I'm still counting tops, sorry...

Sorry.

About six tops. Mmm... Jackets, including like big coats and stuff?

Ummm... Coats can be separate.

OK. Err... they are all downstairs, on that... hanging up basically.

Yup... Do you have anything else in here?

Mmm... there's a couple of pairs of shorts.

Two shorts. Do you have any all-in-ones?

Mmm.... Like playsuits?

Yeah.

Err... no.

OK.

I've got a fancy dress one, but I wouldn't say that it was everyday wear. (laughs)

I'll stick it down just in case. Arrm... Trousers or anything else in there?

Yeah... there's some old work trousers that are a bit tight. Mmm... and that pair downstairs. Probably call it three pairs of trousers.

Pairs of trousers.... You said you had two pairs of jeans. Mmm... OK. And then did you have any more dresses or anything downstairs?

Yeah...

(They walk downstairs).

Sorry..... So suppose this, this makes you be really, really rational with what you've got.

I try to be yeah...

So, two jeans....

So, ummm... What about a fleece jacket: or is that a jumper or a...

Umm... We can do sweatshirts.

Sweatshirts then: so probably..... Cardigans or just sweatshirts?

Mmmm....

I've probably got about four sweatshirts.

Four sweatshirts including umm... fleeces.

Yep.

Mmm... Jumpers.

Jumpers.... errr..... Well actually two of those four would be jumpers.

OK.....

Woollen jumpers.

Ummm... Cardigans?

Cardigans.... I've got a lot of cardigans. Ummm....

There are two there

Two, there's...

Three

There's two here.

Five

May be one more.

Six. Umm... You said, and then we are just going to... you said only two jeans, three trousers, skirts?

Skirts, ummm... let me think, work skirts....

There's one skirt here.

If we count that one umm... that's going to go to charity... that's probably three or four skirts.

And then any more dresses?

Urrr.... Yes so there's one there, four..... (moving items on clothes rail) nine, ten, eleven, twelve if you include a wedding dress. (laughs) but err.... (indistinct speech).

Including the ones down here as well, is that....?

Ummm.... No, actually.... it's....there's one there...

One, two, three....

Fourteen. I've got quite a lot of dresses.

Cool, cause you only had five upstairs as well didn't you.

Umm... yeah...

So were you including those ones before in your count?

I think so, yeah... yeah... yeah...

So you have got fourteen altogether.

Yeah.

And then jackets and coats?

OK... err.... two.... (clicks tongue) three...

Three coats.

Leather four.

Four.

And then jackets, you've got your jacket that you are wearing

Uhh uhhh... Yeah... I don't really have jackets...

OK

Just this one...

And then any strappy tops, camisoles or anything like that?

Umm... No, not unless you count like vests... cotton...

Cool. Thank you very much.

OK.

And then just to finalise... do you think this discussion has, has changed anything, or.... what do you think?

Umm.... it's just made me think out loud about how I go about buying and obtaining clothes, I guess. Umm... I quite enjoy getting rid of stuff as well nowadays so it makes me wanna sort through and look through cause I think if you have everything sitting in a drawer like you can forget about the lower layers and what's in there cause you have your regular rotation stuff so you end up wearing that all the time then you end up feeling like you don't have any clothes. and then that might be a reason to go out and buy more stuff. But umm... actually to look through what you've got and rotate things a bit more probably is a good idea.

So do you think that when you actually are settled, and you've got space to store everything, do you think you'll suddenly go out and buy lots of things?

No I think umm... I feel like I will have a better handle on everything that I do own, cause it'll all be in one place, visible and umm... not sort of crammed in a small space. Yeah...

Thank you so much for your time....

That's OK.

8.2.9 Overview of Volunteers Who Performed The Initial Wardrobe Interview and Did Not Regularly Attend The Workshops.

8.2.9.1 Caroline

Series of interviews	participated		comments
Initial 2013	✓	74:21 mins audio recording	As a singer-songwriter Caroline tends to purchase her clothing for stage performances which then become downgraded slowly to everyday home wear.
Second 2014	✗		
Outtake 2018	✗		
Workshops	✓	1 (attended)	Unfortunately, the workshops coincided with a prolonged touring period resulting in Caroline was only attending the first workshop.

Table 1. Details of Caroline's participation.

Caroline was living with her partner and in the 30-34 age bracket (Table 1). She is a singer-songwriter so most of her purchases are for her stage performances. Once Caroline has worn them many times for her gigs, they then become part of her everyday wardrobe. Her general style is quite casual; lots of t-shirts and jeans. As she had recently moved into the flat¹ with her boyfriend, Caroline had rationalised her clothing, and had a bin bag full (almost 5 kilos) of items she felt were of value, to attempt selling on eBay. There were still a few garments that had not been unpacked yet. Her clothes were in both, the bedroom and the spare room, mixed in with her boyfriends. They were stored in two wardrobes communally and Caroline had a few drawers in a chest of drawers and the shelves of the wardrobe for her sole use. Her stage style is very important to her, and she finds that it needs to reflect her personal style, enabling her to be relaxed and confident on the stage. For Caroline it's also important that these clothes are 'current' demonstrating that she is keeping up with the trends.

¹ The flat is on the lower ground floor, as part of a Victorian terrace in a residential street near Archway tube. It's rented and comes with a garden.

In terms of a working environment, Caroline spends most of the time working from home when she is not touring or traveling to gigs and performing. Therefore, most of the time she is wearing casual clothes for around the home.

8.2.9.2 Nancy

Series of interviews	participated	comments
Initial 2013	✓ 59:25 mins audio recording	She used to live on Florence road, since moved to Seven Sisters into a large shared rented house
Second 2014	✗	
Outtake 2018	✗	
Workshops	✗	Because her job clashed with the workshop times of; evenings and weekends (that the other participants could only do) Nancy was unable to attend.

Table 2. Details of Nancy's participation.

Nancy, was single and in the 30-34 age bracket (Table 2). She used to live on one of the roads (Florence road) where the 'call for volunteers' leaflets were posted but has since moved to Seven Sisters. Nancy was a stock room manager for a designer fashion boutique in Knightsbridge. Because her job involved selling expensive designer clothing her wardrobe is a mixture of pieces that she had bought for a discount and then pieces from the high street (predominantly Zara).

She rented a room in a well looked after shared house (the researcher only went in the kitchen and her bedroom). Her clothing is immaculately organised; Nancy looks after her clothes and takes pride in them. She has a rail and hanging drawers. Clothing that is out of season is packed away and stored meticulously in bags under the bed. I discovered that Nancy is creative and has some knowledge about garment construction, but what she is lacking is the time and space (both mental and physical) to perform mending. Most of her clothes have been altered by her tailor from her native country (Portugal), where she saves up garments to be fitted ready for visits to see family. What was interesting is that the alterations, and repair work were done on both the high value clothes and garments from the high street. The value for her is whether they 'are her'; that they are an acceptable level of quality, look good and are functional rather than the price. However the amount of clothes that have been fitted to her, may, in part be due to her slender figure. Even a size 26" waist pair of jeans would need taking in.

8.2.9.3 Sophie

Series of interviews	participated		comments
Initial 2013	✓	65:12 mins audio recording	Recently started a new job
Second 2014	×		
Outtake 2018	×		
Workshops	×		Moved abroad before the workshops commenced so only have the initial wardrobe interview.

Table 3. Details of Sophie's participation.

As Sophie had only just started a new job (a researcher in a risk management consultancy firm), she has not quite worked out how her wardrobe is going to have to evolve to accommodate her new clothing habits (Table 3). From her short time with the new company it looks like her work wear will have to be much smarter. However, her natural style is smart casual, with bold colours. She believed that choosing what you wear helps you to express yourself.

Sophie is in the 26-29 age group category. She lives in a small two bed flat in a modern block of flats near Archway with her partner who is often traveling. Her clothes are varied and eclectic as she grew up all over Europe. Her parents still live abroad and she travels a lot for pleasure, so a lot of her wardrobe is from outside the UK. Some of Sophie's clothing is never worn but is kept because of either who gave it to her or who owned it before her. For her buying a garment was a mix of necessity and emotional reasons.

Interestingly one of the reasons for volunteering to do this study was from Sophie's experience studying sociology at university and her empathy with the difficulties of sourcing participants for studies.

8.2.10 General Analysis Of Clothing Habits

As the literature review discovered the routines surrounding garment usage, including the ebbs and flows of purchase and discard are idiosyncratic especially when looked at in the minutia. This was confirmed by the participants clothing habits; such as vastly different quantities of clothing in their wardrobes. The outliers had: 65 (Bea) and 238 (Sonya) respectively in their wardrobe audits. Sonya had almost four times as many clothes as Bea. Therefore, it is difficult to analyse or base judgement on the small data set as a whole, especially with the quantifiable data. This data has consequentially been used only as anecdotal evidence to

identify where the participants as a group sat within the behavioural norms uncovered by other research such as WRAP and Latilia (2013, 2015). The following sections will examine the participants clothing habits, detailing converges and diverges from current understandings of clothing behaviour in the UK.

From the data collected within the wardrobe conversations and the workshops it can be seen that the participants clothing habits were specific to them. Sonya for example (who bought significantly more clothing than the others) disclosed that when she is working she would purchase a garment approximately once a week, her frequency of purchase is exacerbated by passing clothing shops and boutiques on a daily basis and retailer sales emails advertising new products tempting her to buy items. However, when an average estimation is calculated from all the participants in the first wardrobe interview the quantity of garments purchased is 30.5 a year. This is close to the much larger data set of WRAPS 27 garments² (2013). Both data sets for the purchase and the disposal of garments have been shown to be inconclusive and unreliable because as humans we are inconsistent in our habits, finding it difficult to remember inconsequential events and recall unimportant information. Brace recognises this commenting that ‘As researchers, we have to recognise that we cannot expect to be given perfectly accurate information by our respondents’ (2008:3)³.

Wardrobe audit.

For the audit the researcher asked the volunteers to count the number of garments within their wardrobes⁴. As the number of garments in a wardrobe varies from day to day due to cycles of wear, laundering⁵, purchase and discard, the count can only be an indication of the quantity of clothes that each participant owns⁶.

The quantity of garments per volunteer seems to relate to:

- ⟨ Space – the amount of physical storage space they have. For example, Bea who is in the middle of renovating her flat and is living in two rooms is very economical with her clothing.
- ⟨ Movement – for example: as discussed, Sonya had the most garments, a quantity slimmed down due to a recent move.
- ⟨ Their identity and its relationship to clothing⁷; for instance, Alice has a drawer full of t-shirts. When looking in the drawer she was amazed at how many there were, but did say ‘every time I go to a gig I have to buy a t-shirt, those don’t get worn.’ (Alice 2013).

These t-shirts were stored with others that are worn regularly suggesting that Alice would come across them rummaging through the drawer. So, they are not forgotten, rather occasional reminders of past experiences.

² From their data women, and younger people bought more than the average, correlating with my results.

³ However, when both sets of information are looked at in tandem it can be seen that Sonya the most frequent consumer also disposes of the largest volume of clothing. Sophie who consumes approximately 40 new items of clothing a year only disposes of four plastic bags worth. This suggests that the quantity of clothing in her wardrobe is probably expanding by approximately twenty garments a year³ whilst Nancy’s output of clothing is higher than the flow of new garments. As she purchases less than twenty garments a year but disposes of four full bin bags worth of clothing. This suggests that she is discarding double the amount of clothing that she is buying.

⁴ Not including underwear, tights, socks or accessories such as gloves and scarves.

⁵ counts were not made of items in laundry baskets, washing machines or drying with the exception of Caroline who counted the garments drying on her washing line

⁶ Especially in the case of Lucy who admitted she has a second wardrobe of clothing in her second home in Cornwall.

⁷ Who they are; what jobs they do as well as their personal style and what they do for relaxation.

Insinuating that these t-shirts are physical records, not thought of as clothing to be worn, rather artefacts stored away as mementoes. This is verified by none being picked out for discussion, rather they were ‘discovered’ during her wardrobe audit. These inactions suggest that the t-shirts hold a dichotomy: they are not considered as part of her ‘wardrobe’, because they were never acquired to wearing. Yet these pieces were stored with others of a similar type (jersey tops and vests), not with other mementos. This implies that,

- a. she has nowhere else to store them. Alice has plenty of space, so she could easily make a specific area for them.
- b. or that they do not hold enough emotional value to be separated from her day-to-day wardrobe. This scenario is more likely, highlighting subtle layers of emotional attachment that spill unconsciously into the wardrobe. This underlines our complex interplay with clothes, how practical objects, essentially created to protect our body from harsh environments are used to demonstrate identity and belonging to social groups (Woodward, 2007).

The average quantity of garments per volunteer was 139, compared to WRAP’s of 127. Initially the quantities seem similar, yet WRAP’s data includes underwear, prevents true comparisons being made (2012). However WRAP discovered the following groups tended to have more clothes than the average, corresponding with the researches higher findings:

- < women,
- < middle aged people,
- < people in higher social grades and in higher income.

The University of Sheffield found that estimated wardrobe counts are underestimated compared to counts made within the wardrobe with a researcher (2013). As WRAP’s report does not state method of collection their average could be an underestimation.

General attitudes to clothing.

In-depth studies of garments were observed using physical artefacts (garments) as a prompt for discussion. Prior to the interview participants were asked to choose up to three examples for each category (see Table 4).

<	Favourite garments.
<	Garments that are never worn but kept.
<	Garments that are worn all the time.
<	Garments that they have had the longest / or are the oldest.
<	The newest garments in the wardrobe.
<	Any garments that have had alterations, repairs, and or customizations made to them.
<	Any garments that need maintenance/ alterations so that they can continue to be worn.
<	Any garments that are going to be disposed of in the next couple of months.

Table 4. garment categories

Participants were encouraged to talk about the garments generally and to discuss their relationship. Each was

photographed and specific quantitative data taken, including composition, age, frequency of wear. The data collated from these categories was open to interpretation from both the participant and the researcher. During these questions an enormous amount of data was extracted and the following analysis represents the areas most pertinent to the ongoing research. The analysis of this data enabled a greater understanding of the flow of garments through the volunteers' wardrobe and their attitudes and practices within the wardrobe (the wardrobe is being used as an all-encompassing term for the participants clothing).

The initial wardrobe interviews were performed in October. Which may have effected some of the garments picked for discussion and their relationship to the categories. In total 145 pieces were looked at in detail, some were used as examples for more than one category, showing that garments can easily straddle these themes. These items were then split into groups and percentages found (see Table 5).

jeans	11%
skirts	8%
Trousers & shorts	10%
dress (Inc. jumpsuit)	17%
tops (Inc. shirts, t-shirts)	22%
knitwear (Inc. cardigans, jumpers and sweatshirts)	14%
jackets	11%
coats	4%
underwear	3%

Table 5. garment type percentages from themes (145 items)

8.2.10.1 Quantity

Two areas that seemed to affect the quantity of clothing within the wardrobe was; space and the length of time at a property. For instance, Bea had reduced her wardrobe down to essentials due to renovations, putting items into storage as she could not fit large quantities of clothing into their home. Space is still a limiting factor for quantity for Bea with an expanded family of four, living in the same square meterage (2018). So, for her storage restricts clothing acquisition. Living with rationed space, has led to her understanding of storage as:

'I think if you have everything sitting in a drawer like you can forget about the lower layers and what's in there coz you have your regular rotation stuff so you end up wearing that all the time then you end up feeling like you don't have any clothes. and then that might be a reason to go out and buy more stuff.' (Bea 1st interview 2013)

Whilst Sonya lived in a similar sized home on her own so had the space to accumulate and store her vast number of acquisitions. Lucy meanwhile 'discovered' garments that she had kept for decades, some for over 30 years, this is reflected by her large amount of space to store items, and not having moved. Highlighted by Lucy finding an item in her wardrobe;

'How long has that been in my wardrobe and I would never have... that would have just sat at the back because you know things at the front of the wardrobe are what I get out and things inevitably cycle to the back and that was right at the back of the wardrobe and I mean what is it?' (Lucy, 2nd interview 2014)

The items that the participants were looking to dispose of in the near future seemed to be on the whole poor purchase decisions because of the 12 items; 1 had never been worn, 5 barely worn, 2 bought specifically for pregnancy and now no longer needed, 2 because they are ill fitting and 2 items that were discovered in a pile that had been untouched for over 10 years.

8.2.10.2 Clothing in use

It became clear through the analysis that the practices involved with clothing use and disposal are complex, entwined around notions of the self, how you want to be perceived externally along with:

- < social norms (Woodward, 2007),
- < space (how much space you have to store garments),
- < time (Skov, 2011),
- < value (economic),
- < duty of care (Gwilt, 2017) (emotional attachment, nostalgia and respect for the materiality of garments).

These areas will be looked at in detail in the subsequent sections.

When the types of garment are split into categories a clearer indication of wardrobe use is seen (see Table 4). For instance, 31 percent of jeans were in the worn all the time category (see Figure 21). This can be seen below (see Figure 20) using a hierarchy table, showing they are worn regularly, sometimes considered favourite pieces and may have been repaired. However, no participants chose jeans as one of their oldest garments, indicating that jeans tend to be workhorses within a wardrobe, worn, possibly repaired, then disposed of when considered worn or damaged beyond repair. This is supported by all participants referring to jeans when detailing an outfit combination worn regularly or through discussing other items such as tops. Although only 5 percent of the participants wardrobes were denim taken from the wardrobe count⁸, Jeans still tended to be the fourth most common garment in the participants wardrobe⁹. Except for Bea who only had two pairs reasoning that:

'I used to work for Diesel and Levi's and I owned a hundred pairs of jeans and I love denim, but now I own two pairs of jeans and they are both Levi's. There is a baggy pair and a slim pair and I have realised that's all you need.' (wardrobe interview 2013)

⁸ Sonya was omitted as an outlier, she had overwhelmingly more pairs of jeans – 35 (15 percent of her audit, skewing the results).

⁹ To put this into context t-shirts had the highest ratio of just under 25 percent.

Material culture researchers, Miller and Woodward discovered that wearers tend to unintentionally adopt more sustainable behaviours with jeans, partly because of the nature of the garment and what it imbues (2012; Woodward, 2015). Jeans are often hardwearing¹⁰, and typical dark indigo colours make dirt less visible, so they are often washed less frequently. Now considered a core item in the wardrobe; dressed up or down and worn regularly jeans still possesses some anti-fashion and subversive historical imprint (due to it's workwear roots and its prevalence in sub cultures such as punk where rips and tears were celebrated and embellished through the use of safety pins (Westwood, 2014). It is socially acceptable to wear jeans that show wear, such as hols, rips and tears and the fashion industry provides ready-made pre-worn or distressed products (with rips or tears, or /and washed in production to create the desired worn effect such as stone washing), often at a premium.

Because of these traits and behaviours associated with jeans:

- < of heavy use,
- < continued use with signs of wear,
- < more likely to repair to extend the life of the garment,
- < and less frequent washing compared to most of the wardrobe.

Woodward contends that understanding the practices surrounding these unintentionally sustainable behaviours could enable designers, industry, government and users to extend these practices to the rest of their wardrobe (2015). However, in terms of longevity the selected jeans varied from 2 weeks to 5.5 years old with an average age of 2.74 years. Suggesting that although jeans tend to have heavy use their lifespan is less than WRAP's 3.3-year average (2013).

Figure 20. Jeans in relation to hierarchy

¹⁰ Jeans were developed and then patented by Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss and co. in 1873. They were (and still predominantly are) made of denim, constructed for workwear to be hardwearing, having rivets at points of strain to increase the trousers durability (Strauss, 2018).

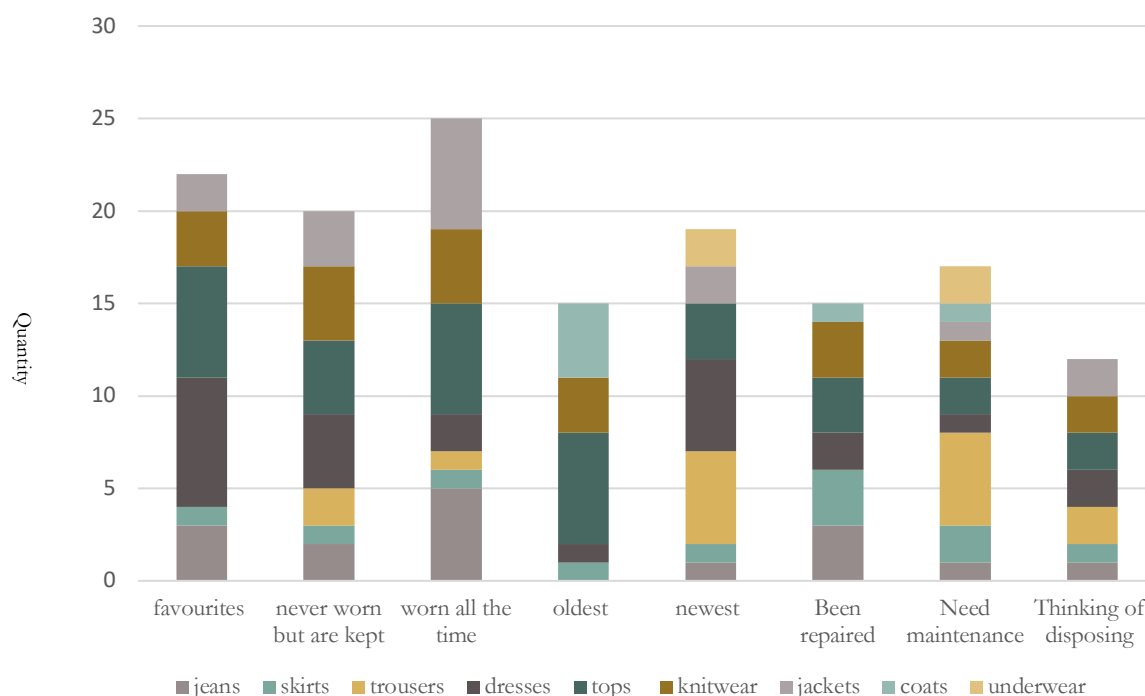


Figure 21. graph of types of garment by categories

Overall participants tended to keep their clothes for longer than WRAP's 3.3 years¹¹; the garments chosen were 4.8 years on average, items worn all the time, 2.24 years and garments ready to be disposed, 9.23 years (2013; see Table 6). Therefore, this data suggests that garments go through stages of use; regular use then infrequent to store before ready for disposal.

	favourites	Never worn	Worn all the time	To be disposed of
Average age	6.86	7.61	2.24	9.23

Table 6. average age of categoried garments

Another garment of interest was coats, they were predominantly in the oldest category, and garments that had been repaired or needed maintenance. It is worth noting that the interview timing (early autumn) could have affected the choice of garments as coats are not often worn. This assumption follows with jackets being picked for most categories (except oldest and repaired), as they were possibly being used as outerwear substitutes and at work. In fact, the coats average age was 8.75 years whilst the jackets were 6.9 years and when put together they had an average age of 7.45 years which is almost double the average age of the participants garments. The higher price of the garment and the expected use over a longer period of time over multiple seasons (which is part of the cultural norm, as coats seem to have remained investment pieces anticipated to last for a number of years).

Recent data from Greenpeace states that polyester is used in 60% of clothing (2016:4), and these clothes

¹¹ To clarify, WRAP's outcome is an estimation of the average period of active use for a garment before disposal, and includes underwear, which WRAP discovered had a shorter lifespan.

when washed release multitudes of plastic microfibers that escape into the water system affecting wildlife (MacArthur 2017). Having performed the wardrobe interviews in 2013 and aware that some are over 30 years it is interesting to see the percentage of polyester or synthetic clothing within the garments pulled out (their fabric contents were recorded during the interviews) – to reiterate this is just a small portion of their wardrobes but it should give an impression of fabrics preference. Of these garments 10% of them were 100% polyester whilst 32.5% of them were 100% cotton (see Table 7). However, when all the polyester mixes are taken into consideration the percentage of the garments becomes 25.5% and if all the garments that contain synthetic yarns such as nylon, acrylic and elastane are included the percentage becomes 47.5%, indicating that even five years ago nearly 50% of items in a woman's wardrobe contained synthetic fibres. Whereas in reference to the interviews (over 18 and a half hours of audio recordings) there are only two instances of Polyester (or poly) being used by the participants. Bea mentioned the fibre in a conversation about a cardigan she no longer wears, she starts by describing what her husband would say if he caught her wearing it:

“ohhh, you’re wearing that horrible polyester cardigan that sparkles”. [...] He’s a bit of a fascist in the kind of natural fibre sense [...] and I don’t think I like it and I probably shouldn’t have bought it sort of retrospectively.’ (Bea, 1st wardrobe interview 2013)

Whilst the following words were used: cotton 34, silk 19, wool 19, cashmere 9, linen 4 and leather 32 (15 instances were by Nancy) times respectively. Garments containing natural fibres often were described with their fibre type first; as a cotton summer dress for instance or a leather jacket. Suggesting the participants wanted to contextualise these garments with their fabric type, just as they often used the brand name within descriptions. This indicates the participants felt the make of the garment (such as Topshop) and the fabric composition, when natural helped to narrate the story and the quality of the item. This highlights that the participants were aware of natural fibres, their look and feel whilst also demonstrating that they are of higher value than synthetic fibres to them.

Fibre type	Composition	%
natural fibres, including mixes	cotton	32.41
	cotton/ linen	0.69
	wool	8.97
	linen	0.69
	silk	10.34
	leather	6.90
manufactured fibres from natural polymers including mixes with natural fibres	viscose	3.45
	cotton / viscose	2.07
	modal cotton	0.69
synthetic manufactured fibres,	polyester (poly)	10.34
	acrylic	0.69
	nylon	1.38
mixed fibres not recyclable currently	cotton elastane (ea)	3.45
	cotton / poly	0.69
	cotton / poly / ea	2.07
	cotton mix other	4.14
	wool mix	3.45
	viscose mix	0.00
	polyester mix	12.41
	acrylic mix	0.69
	other mix	1.38
	unknown	6.90

Table 7. fabric type and percentages from garment themes.

Favourite garments.

The data suggests that these garments are a mixture of old and new depending on the volunteers' individual classifications for a favourite garment¹². Often a favourite garment would also be included in categories two or three¹³. The majority of the favourite garments are worn frequently and are under six years old. Lucy had six garments in this category, three that corresponded with the majority and three garments that were over fifteen years old. These had either not been worn for over ten years or had never been worn and were also in the kept but no longer worn category.

Alice for example talked about a favourite and how it is used:

'but I do love that, bit animal centric. My life is revolved, evolved around animals, its really nice and baggy and it sits well on the hips. [...] I'll go through a phase of wearing it solidly for like a

¹² Sonya for instance she felt that her favorite garments needed to be the expensive branded pieces, so went for the value of the garment.

¹³ Garments that they keep but never wear, or garments that are worn all the time.

week and then realise that everyone that I know has seen me has seen me in it, living



Figure 22. a favourite top of Alice's

in it solidly for a week. So I wash it and tuck it away, and keep maybe, maybe go back to it a couple of weeks later?’ (Alice, wardrobe interview 2013).

The print on the long sleeved t-shirt, gives Alice the feeling that the garment is individual to her, something that is, ‘animal centric’ whilst the fit is something that she feels suits her and is comfortable (Figure 22). In fact, these traits are ones that most of the favourite garments had. Of the twenty-two garments in the favourites category most of them were described as: individual, comfortable, and suits me (fit, flattering). Bea described one of her favourites a vintage dress:

‘Because if I was going to something where I had to dress up, which doesn’t happen very often. [...] It would be one of the first garments that I would think about wearing, if it was suitable, because I just really, really enjoy wearing it, and I don’t feel like anyone else would wear something like it, really...umm..’ (Bea, 1st wardrobe interviews 2013)

The word love was also often used in the description (in fact 46 times within the favourites category) highlighting that the participants held a great regard for the items and felt that they were more than just useful garments to protect them from the weather, rather friends that they had shared experiences with.

These four expressions (individual, comfortable, suits me and love) that were important in respect to describing and understanding clothing favourites are all determined by the user as Shove has shown how attitudes to comfort change over time (2007) so they are all based on an individual’s notions of the self, relationship with their environment and the social norms.

Frequency of use in respect to the age of selected garments.

This is an overview showing the age of garment by the frequency of use (Figure 23). The garments that tend to be older are: favourites, oldest garments, repaired and ones that are going to be disposed of. Garments that need repairing tended to be newer pieces indicating that they were non-durable or had unseen faults when purchased.

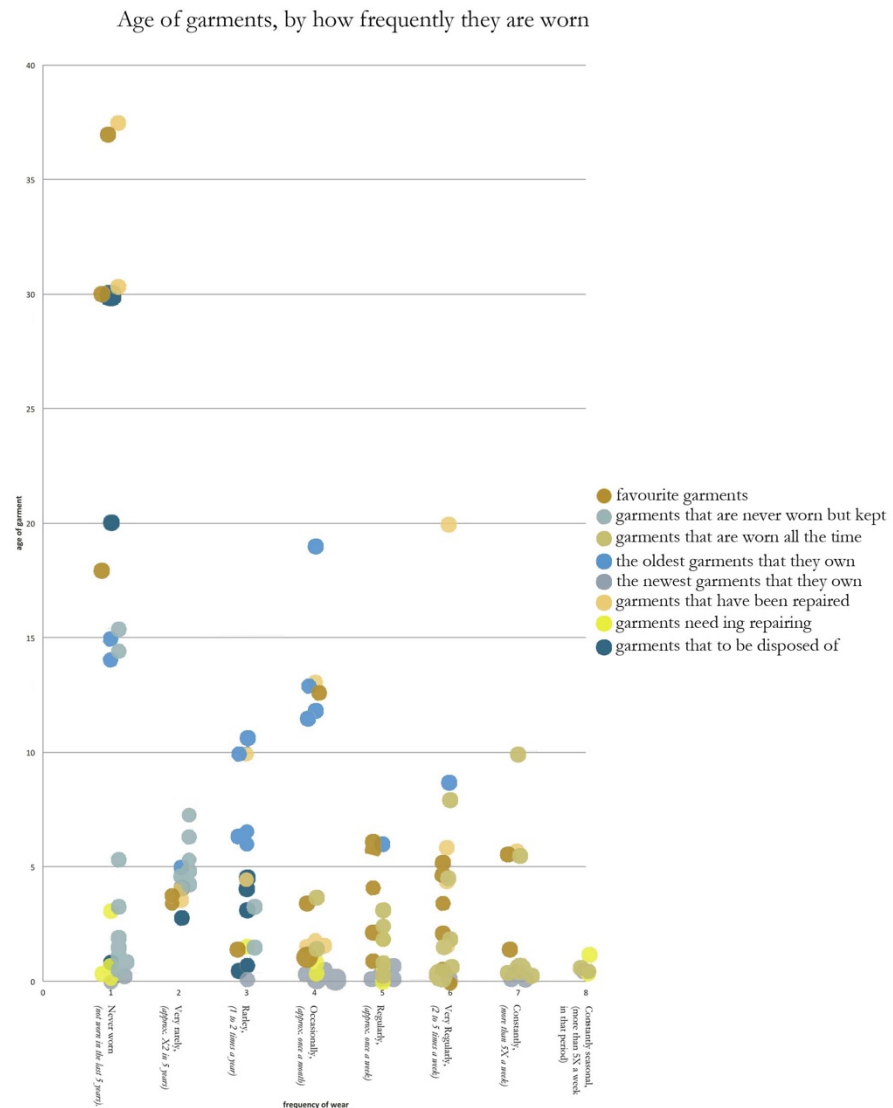


Figure 23. Graph to show the age of selected garments by frequency of wear

From the garments that the participants pulled out it can be seen that most of their jeans are worn regularly to constantly, contrasting with trousers that seem to be in the categories: never worn to occasionally corresponding with Chapman that jeans become a second skin ¹⁴(2010). Dresses however are spread from never worn to worn regularly, possibly because some are worn only for specific occasions and items can be imbued with meanings preventing them from being discarded (Gregson & Crewe 2003). Lucy for instance has a broderie anglaise shirt she has not worn for over 18 years: 'I used to wear it, and wear it, and wear it, and now I don't think I could do it up. But I wouldn't get rid of it because I just love it. So I wouldn't throw it out.' (2013).

¹⁴ The two pairs of jeans that are never worn but are kept are: a designer branded pair given by a friend and a leather pair, which are too aggressive to be worn.

8.2.10.3 Unworn but kept

The purpose for this category was to understand the participants attachment to their clothes and uncovered some interesting findings. Initially the reasons for keeping the garments were vague especially as often they had laid unworn for many years. Often the garments were unworn due to fit, kept because they were still in good condition and in case the wearer changed size re-fitting them. The majority were conserved just in case there was a need, such as Sonya's 1960's style dress kept for fancy dress or Sophie's black skirt kept because its classed as a wardrobe essential:

'it's not quite office appropriate if you need something smart because it is quite short on me, but then I don't know its like quite thin for winter and autumn as well so I don't know. And somehow it doesn't quite fit quite right on me either, I don't know if it is a size too big or it's not a nice cut. So I should probably put it out but I've just kept it because it is a little black skirt. And you know I might need one at some point.' (Sophie, 1st wardrobe interview 2013).

Or items that they still liked but just did not seem suitable at the moment either the style was seen as unfashionable or just not them. These reasons often revealed others that confirmed their attachment to the piece, either a nostalgia for a time when they felt they could wear it or a garment that highlighted when they were at their slimmest.

'I was a very slim eighteen, nineteen-year-old and then again in my early mid-twenties. But I don't think... I wouldn't have worn them for the last ten years maybe.' (Alice, 1st wardrobe interview 2013)

Woodward discovered that these items illustrating a person's slimmer self were often kept to prove that they could be again (2007). The participants did however seem to find it difficult to articulate the purposes behind keeping these items especially, the ones that were essentially memento's of their past; youthful representations of themselves. They do however help to build up a narrative of the wearer, what they wore and how they wore it; which pockets were used regularly and held indentations of what was carried, cuffs pulled out of shape by how they were worn and played with for comfort. Other items kept for nostalgic purposes were ones that the women felt they could not wear since having children and were hoping to be able to wear soon.

Other garments explanations were more eloquent, these were items that the participant felt connected them to someone, either in Caroline's instance by a friends first garment she bought as a buyer at Principals or in Sophie's case items that were gifted such as a top given to her by her boyfriend when the first started dating or a shirt that was her aunts and her mother's before that but she feels it's too dated to wear (2013).

Therefore although the participants often looked at these garments in wonder at why they had been kept there attachment to the item or what the item represented tended to be behind the continued storing of garments no longer worn.

8.2.11 Second Interviews

8.2.11.1 Interview Questions

SECOND INTERVIEW

29/6/14, 2:30pm.

Initial Wardrobe interview: Volunteer: [REDACTED]

Initial 1 to 1 open-ended interview (data gathering) in the participants home, including observations and re-analysis of their wardrobe.

>> Need to be very careful as I could influence the outcome of the investigation at this point with my questions and analysis. And to make sure that I can use it again for my next interviews.

Initial check off list:-

- o Go through volunteer participant forms with the volunteer, make sure that they understand what is involved and get the forms signed.
- o Inform the volunteer about what will be involved in the interview today:-
 - The interview is going to be about your reflections on the mending workshops, basically a general debrief.
 - And trying to understand your clothing habits. - so follow up on from the 1st interview
 - I will be audio recording the session.
 - And I will be taking photographs of your wardrobes and clothing. if this is OK.
 - The whole process should take up to an hour.
 - I would also like to perform some/ all of the interview within the room that you keep your clothes.

❖ **General reflections about the workshops.**

1. First of all could you please tell me again what made you decide to volunteer for the study?

prohibit from sustainability group, serve not some big sure school. knit + knatter. - not scary - just going to clothes, like sized

2. How did or didn't the workshops manage to address these topics?

- fun, + - covered awareness of this, - repl. h2o in h2o. Sample this - interest in other people's h2o. Sample this - so show - had sewing - no headache - easy.

3. How satisfied were you with the workshops? Using a scale of 1 to 5.

Very unsatisfied	unsatisfied	mid / neither	Satisfied	Very satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

(6)

4. Which of the workshops do you feel was most successful? (x 5 in order, list in order of most successful first).
 Mending by hand (darning and patching), introduction to the sewing machine (machine darning and patching) technical development (replacing a zip), creative with your clothes (applique, and trims), needle felting, visible mending sashiko boro, skills developed used on own garment.

1. felting

2. this old woody - lots have holes.

3.

4.

5.

so cute complicated + done something sustainably - ay, + the ability.

And why? Discuss:-

5. Which of the workshops do you feel was most relevant to you? (x 5 in order, list in order of most relevant first).

1. felting

2. zip - as it covers that need zip at it

3. shawl, emp. - piled later

4. - taking about a bag.

5. want sewing machine.

like the idea of a story - a little measure - unique.

5.
And why? Discuss:-

6. Tell me about the garments that you mended in the workshops – describe, level of success, - take photos. Discuss questions for each one.

7. How successful do you feel the alterations were?

8. Have you worn the garment since?

9. If so how frequently?

10. Tell me how you felt about the garment and if anything has changed since altering it...

11. Since starting the mending workshops have you sewn anything else (outside the workshop)? Tell me about it/them?

12. Tell me what are the benefits of mending/ customising your own garments?

13. And what are the disadvantages to mending/ customising your own clothes?

14. Do you think that you are going to continue using the skills that you have developed over the workshops? - 1 to 5 ratio.

Definitely not	no	possibly	yes	Definitely yes
1	2	3	4	5

15. Why is this?

16. Would you be confident to teach any of the mending techniques to friends and family? And if so which ones.

◆ The probe card

17. Tell me how you found using the probe card. (show sample)

18. How did photographing and emailing me your purchases make you feel?

19. Did it affect your buying habits? and if so please describe the changes.

20. Do you think that you have bought any other garments that you haven't documented? – (annie since beginning feb approx. x6)

- Sustainability - throwing away society
- didn't throw things away - things are so cheap
- no ethics to have

❖ **General discussion on clothing and how the process has affected their attitudes to their garments.**

21. How do you think the study has affected your attitudes to clothing? *- how you wear clothes, ask about amount in wardrobe, whether you discarded any garments...*

22. When you are shopping for clothes is there anything that you are doing differently since the start of the study?
- made me more aware of clothes I have - certain liked @ clothes
- don't wear - that nobody would wear them - re-attach to

23. What do you think to the quality of clothing available in the shops? *- not doing different - feel + fit different*
- self awareness - Black sparkle dress

24. What do you think about the aesthetic of clothes altered at home (or hand made) compared to shop bought garments? Do you think there is a difference, how does it affect you wearing them?
- get what you pay for - don't have a huge budget
- unique - what suits you - adapt to lifestyle philosophy

❖ **General shopping habits.** *- going over again*

25. What are your main reasons for buying a new garment? *E.g. similar garment worn out, specific occasions, I fancied buying something, I enjoy the experience.*

26. Approximately how often do you buy new garments?

<input type="checkbox"/> Every day	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 5 week	<input type="checkbox"/> x1 a week	<input type="checkbox"/> x1 a fortnight	<input type="checkbox"/> x1 a month
<input type="checkbox"/> x1 in 2 months	<input type="checkbox"/> quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/> every 6 months	<input type="checkbox"/> once a year	<input type="checkbox"/> x1 in 5 years
<input type="checkbox"/> never	<input type="checkbox"/> other			

27. And when you make a purchase during a shopping trip approximately how many garments do you normally buy?

28. How many garments can you remember buying in the last 6 months?

29. What brands, retailers and other shops do you normally buy from? *topshop, riverisland, H&M, Primark, Toast.... etc.*

30. Do you ever buy second hand clothing? *If so tell me about what you buy...*

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ occasionally ☐ other

31. When you are purchasing a garment, what elements do you consider? *Such as price, fit, quality....*

❖ **General wardrobe habits**

32. What are your main reasons for discarding/ getting rid of a garment? *Tick as many as appropriate.*

<input type="checkbox"/> no longer fits	<input type="checkbox"/> falling to pieces	<input type="checkbox"/> boredom	<input type="checkbox"/> faulty	<input type="checkbox"/> never worn
<input type="checkbox"/> needs mending	<input type="checkbox"/> out of fashion	<input type="checkbox"/> don't like it anymore	<input type="checkbox"/> making space	<input type="checkbox"/> difficult to clean

not going to wear - not garment attached to value, - not mending it had it dry

Part 1 - Brown jumps every 6 weeks, not a light
other..... → does - every 6 weeks or so, white stuff
+ denim shirt. - 5/10 ans. - bleached - cotton - 20 years old gap.

33. Plus how frequently do you discard them and approximately how many at a time.

☐ Every day ☐ 2 to 5 week ☐ x1 a week ☐ x1 a fortnight ☐ x1 a month
☐ x1 in 2 months ☐ quarterly ☐ every 6 months ☐ once a year ☐ x1 in 5 years
☐ never ☐ other

❖ Sewing skills.

34. How much sewing experience/ confidence do you have after participating in the workshops?

☐ none
☐ a little, I can sew on a button
☒ some, I have basic sewing skills
☐ I am happy to follow simple instructions to sew and alter garments
☐ loads, I can follow/ create complex instructions and can make difficult alterations.

35. Are you confident in using a sewing machine?

☐ never used ☐ not at all ☒ a little, sew simple things ☐ am confident. ☐ very confident.

36. Are you confident to perform any of the following.... types of mending.

☒ Darning ☐ Patching ☒ Repairing tears
☒ Shortening ☐ Slight alterations in size ☐ Re-seaming broken stitch work.
☐ Lengthening ☐ Invisible mending ☐ Customising
☒ Re-sewing buttons ☐ Major alterations: eg adding fabric to make the garment larger. ☐ Others please describe

❖ In-depth studies of garments:- the wearer is to pick up to x3 examples per theme, to answer specific questions and to have it photographed and then to talk about it generally, to find out the relationship between the garments.

37. In the original interview we looked at garments from each of these areas, do you think any of your thoughts have changed about the different categories?

not thought of clothes in categories - would categorise them and casual? parties, gym clothes

• Your Favourite garments. Why are they your favourites? Tell me about your relationship with them...

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear
1. Asst. Black top	Black	see under important	cas.	collared, 20					all time
2. Asst. Black top	Black	see under important	cas.	collared, 20					all time

my cropped beige 10 years, same with face, all time

3. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

4. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

5. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

6. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

7. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

8. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

9. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

10. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

11. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

12. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

13. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

14. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

15. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

16. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

17. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

18. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

19. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

20. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

21. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

22. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

23. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

24. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

25. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

26. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

27. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

28. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

29. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

30. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

31. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

32. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

33. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

34. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

35. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

36. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

37. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

38. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

39. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

40. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

41. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

42. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

43. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

44. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

45. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

46. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

47. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

48. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

49. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

50. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all time |

51. Asst. Black top Black | see under important | cas. | collared, 20 | | | | all |

French connection - cream jumper - 30+ years,
eag near + care silk cotton, - always to hand,
- on the edge

- Garments that you have had the longest / or are the oldest. What is the oldest piece in your wardrobe? Tell me about it....

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear
blue jumper			20+ years			all time		cotton	all time
purple fila			20 years	made for 2 - California		all time		cotton	all time
Jacket			15 years or so	per una - Don b4.				wool	

- The newest garments that you have. What is the newest piece in your wardrobe? Tell me about it and how do you feel about it?...

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear
anthropology	blue	tr.		wool poly	felt			not worn	
hard band	stripy	cream + red		several				wool	all time

- Any garments that have had alterations, repairs, and or customizations made to them. What were your reasons for having these done? Who performed the alterations? And how have these amendments affected how you feel about the garment?

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear
2x dresses	red			not worn + had 4 years				cotton	not worn
+ Jumper	green		25+	valid, prob 12 years				wool	all time

- Any garments that need maintenance/ alterations so that you can continue wearing them. Tell me about it and how do you feel about it?...

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear
made a hood				of strip, proper - tipped					
per and orange jumper				blue jumper + had with hood					

- Any garments that you are going to dispose of in the next couple of months. Tell me about it and how do you feel about it?... and why you are going to dispose of it.

style	colour	quality	age	transformations	casual / smart	season	mark (brand)	fabric	frequency of wear
green jeans		long full saty		cotton		40s	early 90s	+ 30+	not worn for 20+ years
dress		very nice, jersey		synthetic			black + gold		not worn

top: print band 8 years old, - vintage, - maybe not worn

❖ **Amount of garments in the wardrobe:-** *photograph the wardrobes, chest of drawers, etc...*
Looking at: Quantity and Style only.

Jeans/tops					
T-shirts	20				
Shirts	8				
Jackets	5				
coats	6				
camisoles/ strappy tops	15				
dresses	15				
skirts	9				
jeans	6				
trousers	5				
shorts	3				
all in ones					
Knitwear					
jumpers	9				
cardigans	8				
dresses					

Thank you very much for your time and for talking to me about your clothing habits.

38. To finish do you think today's discussion has affected your relationship with your clothing?

39. And is there anything else that you would like to add?

39. And is there anything else that you would like to add? *have to be*

- to do some personal - scrip notes.
- support group + facilitation

8.2.11.2 Interview Diary

Initial Pilot:- 2nd interview with Lucy.

29th June 2014 – 2:30 pm

This was my first second interview to reflect on the process of the study including the workshops, and to enable me to see if there are any changes in how the participants approach their clothing. I decided to keep the format the same as the original interviews. Therefore interviewing in the volunteers home and asking open-ended semi-structured questions about their clothing habits.

The questions were broken down into the following sections:

- < general reflections about the workshops
- < the probe card
- < general discussion on clothing and how the process has affected their attitude to their garments.
- < General shopping habits – a slimmed down number of questions from the first interview.
- < General wardrobe habits – a slimmed down number of questions from the first interview.
- < Sewing skills – similar to first interview
- < In-depth studies of garments as first interview.
- < Amount of garments in the wardrobe as first interview.
- < The recording of the interview lasted 1hr 51mins.

And because the interview was taking so long I skipped the general shopping habits as the questions in the earlier sections omit the necessity for that section so I am going to omit it from the next 3x interviews.

A question that I added during the interview was: what does the term sustainability mean to you? Which I will add to the questionnaire.

Again as in the original interview Lucy overran so it is difficult to judge if I need to reduce some of the questions to make it an hour interview. One area that I need to decide on is whether to ask about the eight themes again, because what was interesting that from all the garments Lucy showed me the first time only x6 of them were the same, so does this mean that garments constantly move from one area to another and become prominent at certain parts of someone's life/ during the seasons. As I originally interviewed the volunteers at the beginning of autumn and it is now spring so I should expect some differences. Also when looking at the newest garments, they should be different if the volunteer had bought anything in the last six months.

Another thing that was interesting was that Lucy mentioned that having the probe cards, that it made her think more when purchasing a garment. It did not stop her from making the purchase as they were bought for a purpose.

In regards to the amount of clothing in her wardrobe because we were running over by so much time we did an estimation (Table 8).

Interview 6. with volunteer 6.

	1 st interview	2nd interview
T-shirts	20	20
Shirts	10	8
jackets	5	5
coats	7	6
camisoles/ strappy tops	6	15
dresses	7	15
skirts	8	9
jeans	4	6
trousers	4	5
shorts	2	3
all in ones	0	
Knitwear		
jumpers	6	9
cardigans	5	8
sweatshirts/ hoodies		
total	84	109

guestimae

guestimate

Table 8. wardrobe count for Lucy (volunteer 6).

2nd interview with Sonya*Monday the 9th June 8pm.*

The impressions that I received when entering Sonyas house for the second time was that she looked much more settled in her home as everything seemed to have its place.

Because of tube and overground rail problems our interview ended up starting later than scheduled so in hindsight both of us were tired and therefore the transcript may not have the same level of detail as the initial meeting as Sonya replied to the questions in a very matter of fact tone. The complete opposite to Lucy who was very descriptive when replying to the questions – this may be due to the fact that we know each other now and therefore are showing our true selves/ do not feel that we have to put up a front for each other.

What I found interesting was that for Sonya the most relevant mending technique that I taught her was the invisible hemming using herringbone stitch. And with this stitch she has altered, and mended all her clothes that needed doing. The other techniques that we went through, such as darning and patching she doesn't think that she will use, but is confident to teach her mum how to hem.

In terms of her shopping habits she does not feel that the workshops or the probe card affected how much she bought and she admitted that throughout the study her shopping habits have been different because of her job (the fact that Sonya was not working for the majority of the study). Therefore the fact that she has bought only 6x garments since Christmas is atypical of her, and she has admitted that now she is working again (has been for a couple of months) her shopping habits would be returning to normal.

In terms of the 8 x categories, because of the time (quite late) and the fact that Sonya saw that I had printed out the photos of what she had said last time. We went through the images and talked about whether these garments would be considered the ones that she would still pick out for each category or if anything had changed. What was interesting was that little had changed, other than the new pieces that she had bought.

8.2.12 Interview Transcripts

8.2.12.1 Interview 2. 29th May 2015 – 2:30 pm

Recording: minuets

At the interviewees home in Finsbury park.

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 1, Lucy

Cool

A slurp of tea during the recording.

Well first of all erm can you please tell me again what made you decide to volunteer for this study?

Erm I saw some publicity from a local sustainability group erm that I erm I key into for information and erm I , erm sewing isn't something that ive done since ive had to do it at school but I had started a knit and natter knit class and really enjoyed that just once a month and it seemed that the nature of this group was not sort of big and scary and weekly and you had to complete a make a fancy dress or something. It was just sewing techniques. So it actually seemed like it would be in bite sized chunks and that it was something that I could actually cope with and Ive always wanted, I love garments I love fashion from a distance like you know so I've got a sort of aesthetic intrest in erm techniques and sewing and this seemed like a perfect opportunity as a taster to dip my toe in the water is absouloutly ideal.

Erm and erm how do you think that the workshops managed to address these areas? Do you think they've fulfilled what you wanted? Or...

Erm yer I think the workshops first of all have been fun. And for me I wanted to do , why would I want to do something that I'm not going to enjoy. So the workshops have definitely been fun I am completely

addicted if they were permanent running for the next fifty years I would be there so they have certainly fulfilled that criteria which is really important to me as someone who would be quite intimidated about a lack of technique. Erm its covered a huge variation of things from felting to zipping to heming to customizing. So it has been a real toe in the water , sampling various things, see what you enjoy see whats usefull to my particular wardrobe garments style and its actually been really interesting seeing other people sew who are quite lighthearted about it. Erm and that's kind of atune to how I wanted to feel about it. I've not been heavy now get your exercise books out kind of thing and I will be inspecting your work at the end. The group members have been erm.. er really really sweet and I think the whole format of the group you know a cup of tea or a glass of wine erm a little chat about what you want to do or whats on offer. Erm and its been so easy because you've brought all of the materials even if you know we have brought garments but even if we didn't bring garments you've had all of the samplers. Your own garments. So actually theres been no headache its been made as easy and relaxed as possible and I think erm I've been to five out of a maximum of potentially six classes and on each of those classes Ive done something different so absolutly no chance to get bored and the maximum chance to find something that I like doing as it happens I've ;loved doing the felting I've loved learning, well everything I've done is useful and I, I would like to think that I would use.

And then how satisfied were you with the workshops if we do a ratings scale of one to five with five being...

Six. Absolutly I've loved them, I've really loved them and they could not have been better. I'm not just saying that because you're here I would quite easily say that well I've really loved them but if only we could have done this whereas actually I think we've packed in the maximum we could in those workshops they have been superb.

But I still need to do a booklet which I'm then going to give to you.

Icing on the cake we weren't told we were going to get that and if you do that's brilliant.

And out of those workshops, which do you think was the most sucesssfull do you remember?

Erm... I think the one I don't know sucesssful is the right word but the one that I never thought was a technique I would do and hasn't even come into my radar was felting. And I hadn't even associated that as a possible technique for the classes. And it was so simple (the only thing was getting the equipment I had to order it off the internet you know the needles and everything). You sent me the website for the felting wool and I'm presuming that website or just a google search to get the needle or just a set of needles erm but that because that was such a surprise realy and also im somebody who loves their thim old wollies I dont like be chunky new woollies and er lots of my old woollies have got holes

Hum...

Erm I think I brought one of them along a green woolly jumper that I adore. So thin from washing. Probably had it for 25 years and felted up the holes in it and people that have seen it have said tha is so cute. So A, I've completed and done something with that and with a much loved garment and B, it's a sustainable way of approaching my clothes and C, it's so dam theruputic to do. I liked felting, I really did.

And then I suppose this will be a similar answer. Which one do you think was the most relevant for you?

Erm... I, I think without repeating myself I'd have to say the felting but erm er zipping I've got cushion covers that need zips put in erm ... yer and I haven't really... I'd have no clue about how to go about putting a zip in whereas now if a zip breaks I've even got like cloth, like a zip on this broke even though its slightly thicker material. I'd have a go. And I have got on my birthday list... my birthdays in August and I want to go to John Lewis and get myself a sewing machine and I can't believe I'm saying that. But I so want a sewing machine. In mean its ridiculous that I've had to say to you today would you mind bringing your sewing machine round so I can do my darts but I really really... so I and that is going to be my birthday present. So erm yer and I just think I'd find that hard to do by hand to do it neatly and and the my biggest impediment to sewing was the machine actually. Even threading up the machine filled me with terror it probably seems hard to believe but erm I mean I have done it under supervision with you I, I haven't done it independently but I have done it so what's the big deal? I must admit I still feel a bit like will I be able to do it but of course I will be able to thread the machine. If all else fails I'll send an sos out to you saying I've got my new machine I've been shown how to thread it and I've sat here for an hour and I cant thread it but it won't come to that I don't think but I actually know I probably could and you probably would come round and help me so...

That's brilliant.

So I definitely want a machine.

There is one near where I live on Fonthill Road there is a, it's got lots of industrial sewing machines but they also do have a few domestics as well so that might be an interesting thing to look at as well.

Oh on Fonthill road. Erm I know Fonthill Road er is it on the right or the left when you go from here from Seven Sisters Road walking away from Seven Sisters Road.

So its walking away from Seven Sisters Road and its on the right and its near the end of the road...

The other end of the road

Yer the other end...

So walk quite a long distance.

So that's just an option. I don't know what it's like inside I just always...

No

Walked passed it on the way to Tesco.

Yes, yes well what harm is there that's a ten minute walk. Oh thanks for that tip I will definitely definitely erm... [talking about biscuits] these are from the Ile de Rey in France and they're they're really nice and they are not too sweet so do have one. Because you've got a bit of a French background haven't you.

My yes. We actually went to the Ile de Rey for a long weekend.

Oh lovely

When we were living in Paris.

Oh its beautiful beautiful yer. We brought back some salt as well. You know some Ile de Rey salt and a few bits and pieces.

Erm so I suppose we already spoken about one of your garments that you have been mending but can we go through them maybe one at a time because I think there were maybe two or three we've done... so if we keep with the jumper if you've got that.

I haven't got it here but I can run and get it the long green jumper... yer.

Well we can talk about it then. Well I can't remember if I took a photograph of it. Erm so it was a long green jumper how successful do you think it was?

Well absolutely, totally successful because, despite my fond affection for it I would never have thrown that jumper out it had now got to the stage of back garden wear only not to be seen in public because of moth holes but I still loved it I loved the weight of that jumper because it was so thin from washing so it keeps warm but not too warm I loved the length of it I loved the colour I loved everything about it but it had got these flaming moth holes in it. And the felting I could just have repaired it and made it wearable you know because we did darning which would have been equally successful with it but I actually liked the fact that I'm not covering up its age I'm using its age and introducing colour to a, a garment that was all one colour and making a feature of it its sort of funky but its not even that its like loving the hole almost. I like the fact that the felting shows that it did have a hole erm... so its fantastic, and I would now you know I wouldn't wear it out to posh restaurants whatever but id wear it out you know in public, id wear it round to the shops or erm you know just casually definitely do actually and my friends really think its so cute. People who've seen it have said 'whats that did you do that' you know and they are really surprised that I've done it and really like it. So I am trying to convince all of them to felting.

Have you...are you going to start doing a felting class [laughing].

Yes.

Erm so how frequently do you think you've been wearing it since...

Erm... I know I've got it I've got a pile of clothes in my top room where you know I pull them on and its on that pile of clothes you know clothes that I have recently been wearing so I would say frequently. Its probably my go to jumper if I put it that way.

Which it wasn't before.

Yer because of all of the holes I couldn't really. Well some people could have but you would need a certain cachet to carry that off. You know it needs to be accessorised and what ever whereas I can just wear it now and it looks lovely so definitely its erm given it a whole new lease of life. That jumper will outlast me now . because I will be fleeting any new holes that appear it will never bite the dust im afraid but that's a great thing. Yes. Cause it can keep going for ever really. That jumper now and if its lasted it can last another 25.

Exactly why not! Erm and then I suppose you've been answering this a bit tell me how you felt about the garment and whether anything has changed since you've been , you've altered it basically.

Well erm... yer I think it was a, it was just a jumper when I got it. I realised quite quickly after I'd got it that it was becoming a favourite easy to wear jumper and when it started to get its little holes and the holes started getting bigger and I realised that I couldn't wear it anymore I then realised that it wasn't something that I could easily replace. I did actually hunt for a couple of years for a jumper to replace it and I have got other jumpers nothing that's kind of, its like an old friend nothing that's a perfect as it is for me. And I've now got that old friend back that old jumper so it's er... I feel really happy that I've reclaimed it. Really really happy of all of the things in the wardrobe. And erm I also feel that its like a friend that's had a makeover you know cause its got these funky colours on it now so its like we haven't seen you know you've left school gone to uni moved around and you've lost contact with an old friend you are really happy when you meet up with them but you notice that actually they've been doing loads of things in the interim and now they are sort of a bit bigger and bouncier and you know its kind of quite refreshing that they're offering something they are still them but they are offering something new. My jumpers still my wonderful jumper but its kind of modernised as well its had a little makeover so yer... erm but its still just as charming and easy yer.

Erm and then if we go on to one of your dresses I suppose these two are still works in progress aren't they.

Yes they are very much works in progress, I need to erm unpick the dart on this and then if possible if we have time today and then do the darts up and then I'll have to work out, and then you showed me how to do the er the er armholes erm but to be honest this isn't something that was ever.... This was a vintage dress that I got from a shop er some time ago and I've never really worn because it it needed a makeover but I adore the fabric and will definitely wear this when I finish it.

Hum

Erm.. so its nice to feel that I can actually make something usefull that doesn't look peculiar out of something you know a fabric that I really love so yer, work in progress. I think that's the nature of the sampler workshops to think you can do a garment in one workshop is, I mean its not ambitious we never thought we

could do that but I have started to do it and yer I don't think I'd have known what or how to do it on my own.

I think its just difficult really because it can sometimes take a lot longer to unpick something rather than just redo it and do a brand new version of it.

Yer

So I suppose it can take a little bit more time. But if you really love something I suppose its quite...

Yes

Important to do that?

And I do, I do, I really love the pattern on this I just erm I like the colour and I like the pattern and I do like that idea of having them not just having new clothes or making things new or buying things new I actually do really like the idea of a little treasure a little old treasure I like the story you know the erm I don't know its almost a little secret that you've got you know your its not just a dress that you got in Cos or River Island and its unique it is a one off. This is, well it probably isn't but I doubt ill see someone wearing it and I like that idea. Yer

And then the second dress.

Er the second dress erm er... its just a dress that I used to wear in the garden a lot and I love gardening and its pointless wearing anything that your going to cry over if it gets ripped or erm you know completely ruined so this wasn't an expensive dress or anything like that but it was a dress that I wore a lot and er it had got ripped by thorns and things erm and I was actually on the point of throwing this out its really quite you know really really good timing actually cause I brought it along thinking that it will be good to practice some techniques on so I brought it knowing that it had got these rips in and you know it just repairing it would have just been ridiculous not worth the effort and the dress does not merit it, erm, so I brought it along for practicing techniques on or just as an example of something that I've worn to shreds and was about to throw our you know absolutely gone and then you showed us erm this fantastic technique and I just think its going to be erm lovely you know again it will still just be my garden dress but hey ho. Erm and I just love that idea of customisation and not just repairing because, because you want it to be as it was I like the idea of wanting it to be modified and customised and adapted and the whole idea that it has been worn and ripped making a feature of that really I find that just a really appealing idea and it does sort of funk up the erm garment as well I think its such a great technique I love I, I should have said in the earlier part of the interview that this is actually something because im always ripping and tearing things erm so I think this is a technique and again this is so easy to do. Erm especially when we get out little bookelts Emily.

I know.

So yer this is definitely a technique I would use again and again.

Yer and since starting the mending workshops have you sewn anything else outside the workshops at all?

Erm... no I haven't, I, it's probably been erm ... just a difficult period of time its hard to know but it has been because I was away for three weeks and then I was away for ten days then I was away for another ten days then it was Easter erm and then I've been under the weather for about a month ern so it just I know it seems like an excuse but I have actually been away an awful lot and also this time of year for gardening and with four gardening projects its absolutely mad. Erm... so I wouldn't say that because I haven't sewn means that's indicative of the fact that I'm not going to I definitely will. Erm I also think that I can be a little bit of a person who responds to erm er... being in a group or having a deadline so having the class my I mean I, I love the class and its been a good thing but my particular character trait my well of been to think I'll wait 'till the class. So now that I know there isn't a class I either do it or it doesn't happen because before I could say well, I'll bring that along to the workshop or I'll finish that in the workshop. So its definitely been an element of that thought process I have to admit.

I think that's just natural and then I suppose were been discussing it a bit what do you think of the benefits of mending or customising your own garments?

Er I think the first one is is that if you are in love with a garment or very attached to it and I do get attached to some garments then you can prolong their life and keep them such as my er jumper and my gardening dress I think the other huge thing is that you can modernise them you know you can move them out of oh god that's so 80's, 90's, 2000's you know what ever and actually make, manke them look wearable now. I think the other thing is I love individualy things and yer I just like the idea that erm its your you know I was saying about my recipes and things I really like erm if I do make something even if its something like a bloody sheperds pie you know I'll still put my individual little quirks or things that I've done in the past. I'll always kind of meddle with them to to make them mine and I like that about clothes. There are clothes that I've got some new clothes that I've got for later in the interview and you know theres nothing wrong with you know I do go on my little shopping sprees but it's all about having a mix and it just introduces that variety erm into your into your wardrobe that you can bring up to date something. And I do there's a few little things that I collect like my cook books so it does meen that I do go into second hand or vintage shops from time to time which I think is how I came across this dress and just saw it and loved it and I like the idea that I couldn't have worn it as it was. But I, I can now if I saw something like that get it and think well what could I do with that to make it work. Well is there something I could do? So yer I think its just got huge erm applications yer, huge benefits.

Erm and then what do you think are the disadvantages to mending or customising clothes?

Erm well I suppose erm skill, erm which you know we've now had an introduction er I mean I wouldn't have known about these techniques but now I do so its feeling confident its having that confidence level its definitely about that because whats the worst you can do its not going to look erm you know like what something Chanel made? So erm yer so its kind of debunking that oh would it be good enough for my old sewing teacher? No it wouldn't. better not do it so having the confidence to know that it works for me and that it works for the garment erm I think one of the other things is for like something like the felting

equipment, you can't just go.. actually there is a sewing shop, haberdashery shop on Blackstock road which I must go down to to see if they have felting needles otherwise order it online and it can you know it can be an issue about knowing where to get things if you are not in the swing. If you are in that world you kind of know where to go. Erm but it's a bit of a learning curve otherwise erm... disadvantages I suppose time you have to have the time and sometimes I don't think it's about actually having the time it's about making the time you know prioritising it over everything else you know you can't do everything so but we all make decisions about what we do do and it's very easy to say oh I haven't had time to do that which I'm as guilty of as the next person but I, I know that I want to do things like I wanted to come to the classes I would have cancelled my grandma's funeral to get to the classes so you know we do actually make those decisions but when you've got competing issues for your time you have to set that time aside and definitely it's so easy to go out and buy something so not being lazy I think.

And then I suppose do you think you are going to continue using the skills that you've developed from these workshops?

Yer I would be devastated if I didn't.

And between one definitely not to five definitely yes.

I would say I won't use all of the techniques probably erm but I, I do want to get a sewing machine and use a sewing machine I do want to hem. I've got trousers that I need hemming because I've got very long legs erm so when I buy trousers they are often too long and cause you've got to get super long so hemming I will definitely use, zipping I will definitely use, felting I will definitely use and I've forgotten what this technique is this Japanese erm

I think it's called something shishiko

That's it yer I would definitely use. I would say on a scale of one to five going towards definite I would say a five for those techniques. Yer erm, I may not do straight darning I'll be honest I probably won't do that because I'm just excited by the more fun stuff and you can't do everything so I would rather do something where it is not just something just repairing the garment but it's making fun with the repair. Yer.

And adding things to it.

But that doesn't mean that I didn't enjoy learning the darning because you don't know until you've done it and it's I think also it's adding to your skill level you know how to do the techniques so it just I don't know it does add to your repertoire and make you feel more confident in general like you haven't just got this narrow little thing that you can do and if you sort of stepped outside that you would be helpless I think well I can do that actually and that's a nice feeling.

Yer I suppose you might want to use one of those techniques on something else.

Absolutely. Yer that's what I was trying to say. But couldn't find the words to say it yer just knowing those techniques enriches your approach and ability to do things and possibly your ability to be more creative with

anything that you are doing. So its it was definitely worth doing and in a very subtle way may influence or help yer.

And then would you be confident to teach any of these techniques to friends and family?

Yes definitely definitely if any of my friends said well, shall we come round and do a bit of felting I'd definitely be happy about the felting erm yer because that's just so easy I mean that was just a no brainer I mean learning that, erm would I be happy teaching any of the others? Erm... not happy no, not happy no. could I at a push if desperate. Possibly but I can't say I'd be super comfortable. But then I never expected or wanted to be. No, and also I think until its like stages isn't it until you've done something easy and no you can do that you don't want to walk before you can run and I've never taught anybody to do anything with stuff. We even say yer I'd show felting is like a mamouth leap.

Erm and then if we just go on to the... can you remember the little cards that I gave you.

Oh yes, yes

How did you find using it or the idea of photographing and emailing me garments that you had bought?

Erm I didn't mind photographing and emailing them erm I carried around the little card and that wasn't an issue. What I wasn't comfortable doing was photographing them in the shop

Yer

Erm, I just didn't er the shops were often so sort of jostly and erm you haven't got room and theres no where to sort of hang it so you can just get it. And your also worried that they're thinking that your photographing it for a different purpose, you know copying it or something. Erm... but I felt perfectly happy when I got home before I put it away just lobbing it on the bed and photographing it flat out. So that wasn't an issue at all it was dead easy to do and I was happy to do that infact I sort of thought it was quite a good idea because it made me think about what you know that id bought more trousers and another top and you know did I need these things? Its I meen I love the things I got erm and I think I er every no not everything that I, I think about two, two thirds of whatever I got I'd got in the sale anyway. Erm I mean there were things that I liked I didn't just get them because theyre in the sale I got them because I liked them but erm yer it did I suppose it's the first time I've thought I'm in a class and I'm in a workshop and I'm learning how to be more sustainable not learning about how to be more sustainable but learning about sustainable techniques and what have I done in the new year? Failed and I've got these and it just it didn't make me feel guilty because I wanted what I got but it did make me reflect on it which otherwise I would not have done I'd just have put them away in the wardrobe worn them and not had a second thought. And I think having that second thought wasn't a bad thing. Because it just makes you appraise that you've done that it makes you more conscious of what you've done. Not in a bad way but I think that that's sort of being self aware can only be a good thing.

Erm and I suppose do you think... oh you've kind of answered. Do you think that its affected your buying habits?

Erm... has it stooped me buying anything? No it hasn't stoped me buying anything. Erm in a conscious way er because the things I bought I bought for a purpose I bought to wear er... we went away for new year and I wanted things that I could wear on new year's eve end for the following weekend and there is something nice about new clothes at new year and they were in the sale so I er I bought those even though I was aware. I wouldn't otherwise have thought about it I wouldn't have had even a reflection on on buying it. Erm I think if there's something I want I would still get it.

Erm

But there is definitely a slightly different nuance to my thinking for sure yer. Which wouldn't surprise me if it it did not in a dramatic way but if I did get less. It's inevitable I would get less because whereas I might have. For instance I might have still been looking for a jumper to replace my jumper or a dress to replace my gardening dress I that isn't even on a list now because I have something far better which are the things I like which I can get a new lease of life from. So yer, replacing clothes that are worn out definitely because I now have a different way of replacing them rather than buying a new thing. Erm and I think the whole issue of sustainability is is just been brought back in to er a level of consciousness so I think in a very low key way. But im sure it has yer.

And erm do you think you've bought any other garments that you haven't documented? Since Cbristmas?

No I haven't. er the only thing that I bought was like a little head scarf. Which I've got up in the bathroom and I can show you and I didn't document that its just like a stripy erm headscarf yer.

Cool and then I suppose what? You've mentioned sustainability what, for you what do you think sustainability means or...

Erm I suppose its about the kind of throw away society that I'm increasingly aware that we live in I mean that im in a slightly older generation when things did actually last so I was brought up with a philosophy that you didn't throw things away and you got things that would last erm and now things are so cheep erm you know that if you don't bring any ethics to bare on that situation at all, then you can buy your Indian cotton dress for, you know a tenner. probably wear it one season and then throw it and get the next on or your trousers or your... you know you can get things rediciously cheap and they are fine to wear for a while. They won't wash and wear and last but they are actually fine you know they are pretty colours. Theyre fashionable erm... but there is something that feels very comfortable and feels like coming home to me about that how rethinking of not just clothing but furniture and everything and rcycling and upcycling and making things erm last longer and not just treating everything as disposable. Erm so for me sustainability means erm not just old fashioned principles about good quality things that last cause you know it should also be fun and the whole new approach to sustainability isn't that sort of dreary righteous approach if you know oh I recycle everything and you know I will only eat food if I've got it out of Marks and Spencers' bin at the end of the night you know or you know somebody was telling me about a friend of theirs and she's, she's the daugheter of the friend we were staying with and she's 27 and she's got this friend who's a freegunner and will only eat food that's you know because she doesn't believe and it and Catherine was saying that it makes her feel bad about everything she does because she's so self righteous. But er I think the idea of valuing what you have and and not just

taking things for granted not erm you know that being aware of land fill and being aware of blood sweat of tears that go into to some clothes that you buy for a tenner you know down at er.. whatever you know George or Asda's one of the big you know sort of. And I just you know I think we should eat happy food and wear happy clothes and we can certainly afford to in the first world so what, whats wrong with having a lovely garment and funkying it up by customising and repairing it? And to me that's what sustainability means being happy with what you've got you know not leading this depressing life where you know you hate everything you wear and having a mix and not being extreme about it. But bringing that awareness into what you do. Erm... and it its not such a radical approach really you know and its not so unachievable you know we, we are learning to do it more and more. People customise furniture and upcycle furniture and its so groovy and its lovely some of the stuff you see and its also allowing people to use their talents and me! Erm and its often less expensive to do it that way and who doesn't want more money to you know to so that you know your not constantly adding up the pennies can I afford this? Can I afford that? So its helpful in everyway and your not exploiting anyone to do it either and its it can be fun so... yes sustainability is just about a bit of a bit of thoughtfulness and awareness and just trying to change a few attitudes to. To not clog up the earth with chucking away our rubbish and having that disposable attitude to everything.

Erm than you. Erm and then I suppose we've been taking about this a bit but how... if you think about what we have been doing as a whole so from the first interview and then the workshops and everything erm... how do you think that the study has effected your attitudes to clothing? Do you think? Do you think it has? Or...

Erm... its probably made me more aware of the clothes that I have because certainly the studies made me look at clothes that I don't wear, clothes that nobody would wear that I have not even clothes that need to go to a charity shop clothes that actually nobody would wear these and they are stuck there at the back of my wardrobe and I just haven't gone through them so yer it's a bit its definitely brought that up. I think in terms of er a relationship that I have with clothes which is erm clothes that I really really love I'm aware that I am insanely attached to some clothes and could just not get rid of them. Some of them I wear and some of them I don't wear but I still wouldn't get rid of them and its just made me think about clothes rather than you know it's a bit like food where you eat it it's gone, clothes you put them on so it has made me even just the two interviews I think which has just today we are just going through my wardrobe like that that thing on top, I thought where has that come from? How long has that been in my wardrobe and I would never have... that would have just sat at the back because you know things at the front of the wardrobe are what I get out and things inevitably cycle to the back and that was right at the back of the wardrobe and I mean what is it? You know but without this interview today that that would have probably been there for however long you know. Until the wardrobe just got too big and then you know things get fished out and thrown on the spur of the moment but its also made me aware of things that I sort of rarely use but do love so I think I've got a bit. I don't know, maybe everybody has that relationship with their clothes but yer, I've definitely got a slightly strange attitude to my clothes which is things in you know if you love your clothes you think you genuinely have things in there that you love but no I've got these weird things in there that I definitely don't love.

And erm do you think from the first interview do you think that looking at your garments do you think that you got rid of some of them? Or or did you...

Er... I'd like to say that I've got rid of more than I did I had a clear out for the first interview erm... it was a pretty mini clearout really erm... yes and it wasn't even recycling I mean there were things that were just past and we've been meaning to have a general (my wardrobes up on the top floor of the house).

Okay.

And we've been meaning to, we call it our garage and everything gets... you know we've put things upstairs and on the top floor and you think you know we will take that to charity or to the dump or whatever erm so we've got an old computer up there that needs to go to the dump and things like this and we've been meaning to have that clear out and now we are saying we need to have a long weekend this summer when we just clear out. Well I was thinking while he's doing that front room you know all of the big stuff I could just get in to my wardrobe and rationalise it really. Cause I, I think there's a saying isn't there that you wear ten per cent of your clothes ninety per cent of the time which is fair enough and then you wear erm... 90 per cent of your clothes 10 per cent of the time but there's loads of stuff that I just don't need. There's erm, and there is stuff that could probably go to charity that I've just grown out of or it's just the wrong size or... erm I don't like enough to customise cause you do have to invest time

Yer

So you have to like what you you know you have to want to keep that garment and I have loads of tatty garments that I don't want to keep that could be binned or that are just not my size anymore so there's no point customising them that somebody else might want or what ever so yer if erm I, I haven't actually told Steve that I'm hoping that he will just get stuck in the top room and then I'll say I'll just have a quick clear out in the back room where my clothes are but it does need a clear out yep.

So it's almost more that you are just more aware of what you have?

Definitely, yer definitely yer from the first interview and then again today and er, as I was bringing these things down today I was thinking we've got to get that long weekend sorted out. Erm but I know it's not going to be this weekend because we are all booked up this weekend but erm yer I think we are around next weekend so we just have to focus and do that but I'm definitely more aware of yer what's, what's the point of having clothes you are not wearing?

And erm then when you are shopping for clothes is there anything that you think you are doing differently since the beginning of the study?

Er... not doing differently but feeling and thinking differently because when I did erm.... Like the recent thing that I got this sort of headband erm... I, I was well I was thinking you know well I'm getting er another garment erm.. even though it's only small but it's something that is practical you know I've used it immediately on getting it wore it all weekend because we were erm by the beach and swimming and things and it was just great for wrapping my hair up and keeping... erm... and the things I got at new year I bought I bought with a purpose in mind it wasn't just, oh im going to go which I've done in the past I'm going to go down to the

sales and see you know have a look see and a bit impulsive it definitely you know my purchases weren't impulsive and they were things that I've used. Erm ... so I think it's self awareness, yer.

Erm.. and then I suppose we've touched on this a bit. What what do you think about the quality of clothing available in the shops? At the moment.

I think you get what you pay for really. Erm... I mean I don't have a, or choose not to any longer have a huge budget for clothing I mean when some people tell me what they spend on clothes I don't know whether I'm a scimp or what but I'm absolutely horrified sometimes you know like this er.. my friends daughter Catherine at the weekend had been to Liberties and I forget the make of the bag that she'd got but she'd spent three hundred pounds on this bag and she'd bought a little purse to go in the bag for a hundred pounds and shes 27 you know and shes lovely and I love Catherine to bits erm but I you know I was just a little bit sort of horrified and erm she's getting married in October and I just she was talking about her honeymoon and the honeymoon is costing 11 and a half grand. No twelve and a half grand! Just the honeymoon! Just the honeymoon!!! And this is the, Catherine comes from an ordinary family you know her husband Adam works, he's er a mechanic in a VW garage in south London. Catherine earns well erm, she's just got an ordinary degree and she works for RBS but you know she earns a fair wage. But you know the a, the sort of erm and you know she dresses impecially and beautifully and you know shes always beautifully coordinated and shes always got new clothes on and theyre always georgeous clothes. She had this lovely dress on that suited her and I can't remember who she said it was from but it was... I was saying oh how much was that Catherine? 'oh a hundred and fifty quid but its lovely you know and I'm wear it and you know it I just erm... I don't think ive ever spent 150 quid on a dress and I might do if I needed to but it, but not as a sort of common, common thing. Erm but even when you spend that much money the quality of of the clothes I I think is, like these trousers I've got erm. I don't think they're particually you know the material's quite thin. They're obviously sort of mass-produced in a factory and you know the material catches everywhere erm... you know I like them but are they particularly well made are they particularly good quality? I got them in the sale and they were probly about 30 quid but full price I think they were 90. Do I think theres 90 quid's worth of garment here? In all honesty no I don't.

Hum

And would never have er paid that for them and er I think of any of the garments that I look at erm... I, I do as somebody who doesn't sew or make their own clothes I do think most tailoring materinals are incredibly thin and cheap now and the quality of the sewing I think is so obviously you know factory. You know obviously clothes are made in factories but so obviously you know the lowest knock them out as quick as you can kind of thing. Erm... and im not just talking about George at ASDA but but in general if you even go to monsson. Monsson in the 80's used to be a really nice shop you know and clothes from their would last and the cotton was of a proper weight and the sewing was well done, but that isn't the case now. And there are so many really horrible dreadful materials that are common place now. Erm... yes I don't think quality of clothing in general is very good at all. No, not even when you go... you know the old standards of M&S or John Lewis or whatever even shops like that I think are reall disappointing a lot of the time.

And is that something that you... I suppose when you are buying a garment is that something that you look at? Do you?

Yer it's something I would definitely take it into account. If you want something for somewhere then you might get it anyway. But yer, when you look at a shop like Here Today Here Tomorrow there isn't anything in that shop that isn't georgoeus you know everything is beautifully made, beautifully sourced lovely colours, lovely materials and you feel good about everything in the shop and that's much more the case with little independents er... I went to a lovely clothing and didn't buy when we were erm out doing some shopping on Saturday we just passed by this little independent shop in Hampshire and I just went in and it was erm all sort of individually sourced clothes and they were all georgeous and really well made and quite expensive but, but probably worth it because they will last and last erm yes I think more and more it's the independents that offer more quality but the chains sadly I don't think so anymore

And then erm... moving on a bit. What do you think about the aesthetic of clothes altered at home or home made garments compared to shop bought garments? Do you think there is adifference between them or..

Well the fact that its unique. Er and then fact that you've made it, what suits you, it's adapted to your personal use or lifestyle or philosophy or... erm and I think also when you invest in something whether it's time or thought you feel differently about it it hasn't come easy so you value it differently you you... and you increase your attachement to it because you've worked on it so.. erm... obviously its going to look different yer. But I, I think that's quite trendy at the moment that idea of er.. you know that you've made something your own. You know its not seen as you couldn't afford to buy a new dress then. Its now like oh I'm loving what you've done to that so, yer I think it is a different aesthetic but its one that is quite nice and that people get. That people understand they don't see you as peculiar or quirky. Maybe they do but don't say. No I don't think people do. Yer I think people see it as your a little bit charasmatic or individual well I certainly see that if I see somebody else wearing clothes that they've adapted. I you know I im really interested and I want to know what they've done and why they've done it and how they've done it and I really appreciate if it looks nice. But in general if people have customised its been really sweet what they've done and I think I want it myself.

Cool and then we are just going to go into general shopping habits and I think these might be a bit quicker because they are similar to the ones that we did last time. Erm... what do you think are your main reasons for buying a garment?

[phone ringing and answered] ok so we will forget those questions because we have kind of already talked about those anyway.

Ok

Erm what do you think are your main reasons for getting rid of a garment?

Erm... that I am definitely not going to wear it it's not a garment I feel particularly attached to or is of any value erm so I wouldn't want to costum... wouldn't want to spend time or effort customising it. Erm that it's had its day really either that its had it's, you know, so out of fashion that it would look odd or erm yer just that its no longer practical.

Cool erm.. and I suppose we touched this last time erm... how frequently do you discard garments?

I'm hopeless I am absolutely... I'm probably the worst person you are going to interview I, I'm generally not good at getting rid of things. I think if I have a blast at stuff I'm ok, but I'm not good at the routine general thinning out of anything. I don't go through my kitchen cupboards, erm which I ought to I don't go through I pile everything into one room and then I will have a blast at it and in my wardrobe I will just shuffle everything into the back of the wardrobe. And I, I am just not particularly efficient in that way it's, it's not it's a characteristic I would love to have to be much more organised and to just keep on top of things but it's a bit like when I say that I've got a class that I will do everything that I can to get there if I haven't got a class I'll say that I'll do it tomorrow and it's just the way I am it's the line of least resistance and unfortunately the line of least resistance for me is often until things pile up and then I will have a good go at it erm... but other than that things can lie around forever really. I mean it's dreadful.

So do you think it's more a question of space then rather than anything else?

Erm. Yes, space. For sure yer, yer.

Cool and then erm... just to quickly go over your sewing skills erm how much sewing experience and confidence do you have after participating in the workshops. If we did another scale of one to not very much and five to very confident.

Erm... I think er I think I, er between one and five how er. I suppose the difficulty answering that is that something's like felting are new techniques so it's not that my confidence is increased it's that it's completely new to me so if you'd asked me before what's felting erm... whereas now I feel very confident in it but it wasn't that I didn't feel confident in it before it's that I didn't even know about it. You know er there are other things where erm... I'm not confident where I have got a great skill level to be honest but I am confident that I could have a go. So where does that go? In the middle? Three?

Yep.

Yer and I would expect somethings to be ok and other things I did I wouldn't be surprised if the first zip I put I'd have to rip out and re put in but I, I would feel yes it's something that I could have a shot at which before no.

But then I suppose it's the old analogy that practice makes perfect...

Absolutely.

Erm and then how confident do you think you are about using a sewing machine? Now again if we used the one to five.

Erm... I've been okay in class I think er... yer because you've left me alone on the machine and I've been I haven't been sort of... oh Emily just come here just come here. Erm... so I've needed supervision threading up but I've wanted to do it myself not just have you do it. Erm... so probably about a three again. Yer.

Cool and then I suppose from what we've done do you feel confident about erm darning?

Yes.

Erm shortening or lengthening something?

Er, shortening I would I don't know about lengthening.

Ok resewing on buttons?

Yer I could definitely do that yer.

Patching?

Yes.

Erm a slight alteration insize, maybe bigger or smaller or something?

You mean like the darts?

Hum

Erm yes er...

Erm major alterations, for instance adding fabric to make the garment larger.

No

Erm repairing tears.

Yes.

Erm reseaming broken stitchwork.

Question mark

Questionmark. Customising

Yes.

Cool and then if we go on to...

Questionmark is just because not sure it would depend on what it was. Probably not. But there might be something easy I suppose that's what I ment really.

Cool erm... and then to have a look at your garments in the original interview we looked at garments... I suppose we touched on all of these areas before. Erm do you think any of your thoughts have changed about any of these categories from last time. So we had I think favourites, garments that you wear but never keep, garments that you wear all of the time.

Hum

The ones that are the oldest...

Yer I think I hadn't thought of clothes in categories at all I had just thought of clothes as clothes and if I categorised them I would categorise them as casual or domestic wear you know like gardening or cleaning or ... erm and erm... parties or christmas or looking smart for the mother in law so those were the kind of categories, I hadn't I had never thought of the clothes in the categories you'd put them in. so it gives you a new take on your clothes for sure. And I suppose sometimes not in a good way either. Because it does make you aware that this category that you had never admitted to of clothes that need throwing out exists. And clothes that you have kept but will never wear exists. And just having raised that question will obviously change your relationship to those clothes and it might not. Well I mean the clothes that need throwing out just need throwing out. The clothes that you've kept but never wear you suddenly think well what is that about. And you begin to question what that's about. Erm.. you know er... er this useless impractical thing. What is that attachment to that dress? And erm why can't you keep that attachment in another way like cut a panel of that out? And make it a cushion or something if you really... if there is something about it. So I suppose it raises that sort of question why are you keeping this? And is there not a better or nicer or more useful or something that would give you a more pleasure way of looking at it? So so yer it has changed the way I think about my clothes in those kinds of ways.

Cool thank you. And then just to quickly look at do you have any of your favourites here?

I probably have. Yep. I mean obviously some of the favorites are the ones that I have chosen to want to keep you know the ones that we had talked about in the repairing section. So what is that Emily what is that and where did that come from? And how long has it been in my wardrobe? This I can not remember wearing this, where's another of my favourites? Here we are. I've got a favourite here I love this. And I love it when summer comes. And its you know its.

That was one of the ones from before as well.

Is it you recognise it. This was very quick where am I going to. Erm shall I move those cushions off and then you will have more of a flat surface to photograph.

No its ok.

Are you ok?

Can photograph them like that.

Erm things like this it is nicely made not completely tatty t-shirt that I really really like and wear a lot is that something? Im sure I would have put a tshirt in before. Definitely would have put a t-shirt in and this is, I have a number of t-shirts that I just wear erm you know like the one I've got on and this one. Well that would have been a favourite for sure. Erm and these I wear all summer long they are not the height of fashion but in terms of clothing that I wear I just... wear these. All of the time.

Erm and then so you wear this all of the time?

I wear that all of the time all of the time and these I've had probably for about 10 years and they just wash and wear and wash and wear and wash and wear. They are so easy to wear.

And you wear those?

Summer. Or just wear , wear, wear ,wear like this weekend just gone I wore tham going on a walk, we went on a little walk on Saturday went on another walk on Monday morning. Went to the beach on Sunday. Wore them for the walk on Saturday, the beach on Sunday and the walk on Monday and I don't know whether there's room for a fourth but jeans you know I've got a number of jeans.

So are these basically...

I couldn't live without jeans.

Are your favourites the same as erm the ones that you wear all of the time would you say?

Have I got any favourites that I don't wear all of the time? Erm well ive got a favourite jumper that I wear things underneath but I don't wear it all of the time but... its one of my favourite jumpers so. This this could be in a different catergory I guess... er... you could put that in. er. This is a favourite top but I don't wear it all of the time. But it's a top I will go to. Erm. I probably have got three favourites but but things that I don't wear all of the time.

Erm,

So probably these three, favourite shirt, favourite top and favourite jumper.

That are not worn all of the time.

That I don't wear all of the time but I do wear from time to time.

Ok and then for the t-shirt would you say that was? How old would you say that was?

Oh its probably about four years Emily, three or four years old.

So all of all of these four then go into your garments that you wear all of the time?

Yes

As well.

Yep yes for sure.

Erm. Ok so this one then how often would you say you wore that?

Erm probably... about every six weeks or so. It's a nice light jumper that you can put like an orange I've got a lovely orange top that you can put under it or erm a green top I can put under it and if you know you are not sure about the weather will keep you warm and its easy to wear and easy to take off so I just really like that jumper.

Ok cause I think that was in one of the ones before.

I've probably just grabbed things from the front of the wardrobe!

Oh no, no its just interesting because its almost... it's good to see whether anything had changed really.

Right.

Ok and so this is a favourite that you don't wear very often so...

Yer probably every six weeks or so like the jumper. I do really like it but it has to be warm enough but not too warm to wear it because its really heavy and its lined. So you can get quite warm but it hasn't got sleeves so... erm like tonight like if I was going out I could wear that cause its not hot hot hot but it is cool enough to wear it. You know.

Thank you, then there was this sbirt as well.

Stains and you know what ever but its just a really big old denim shirt that you can you know just throw on no matter what you are wearing. And er it comes into its own in sort of spring summer and autumn

And then how old do you think it is?

This is extraordinarily old actually, it's probably at least 20 years old Emily.

Er, that was gap and it will be 100% cotton yer it will be their old style of Gap clothing you know when they had quite heavy weight stuff that you could just wash and wash and wash and they never semed to age particularly. And then how often would you wear that sbirt?

Oh now that's out I would say I would probably say I would wear that shirt at least once a fortnight. Yer.

And before when you had it in the back of the...?

Erm... it might even have gone for a year without wearing it cause... erm I tend to be like getting stuff out for you tonight or if im going out if it's not there who's going to spend half an hour routing out something

Yer

And things can get buried. I don't know if you find this ever?

Oh completely. Ok garments that you never wear but you keep.

Well I do wear that actuals somethimes so that's not fair. Er now these erm are ancient I wouldn't, I wouldn't wear them what well am I going to keep them? Well no I'm not actually. So does that fit that I won't wear these? So they're for going.

No

So that's a different category.

That's a different category.

Er never wear but keep. Never wear well, well that's going as well. Never wear but keep... oh here we are. Yer... erm now this. I might have worn that back in the day erm.. there's something I really like about it. I don't even know where I got it no this is probably a really good example of my attitude to clothes because I would find that hard to get rid of Emily but am I going to wear it no? No I'm not is the honest answer. So I cant remember when I last wore that but I cant honestly say I'm going to walk round to the charity shop with that cause I don't know but I like it but im not going to wear it. It's odd isn't it.

How old do you think it is?

I think that probably about... at least 14 years old. And I've got a feeling that its from a charity shop because of the lapels, its got no labels, the lapels and I think I probably liked er... the colours and the pattern. I quite like sludgy botanics. Erm and where I to go to a sewing class that's the sort of thing that I would probably like to dig out and go what can I do? With this

Yer

You know what could I do with those er, you know but I, I don't I don't like it as it is but theres something that I like about it. You know I hate the buttons erm... I don't like the lapels, these silly little sleeves but that's the sort of thing if I were in a class I would like to think I could repurpose in some way. So that's a very good example of a disfunctional approach to a piece of clothing.

No its really interesting. Cool.

Erm well here we are something that I've bought and never worn. Is a category for that?

Bought and never worn.

Something that I've got and don't wear but I'm not going to throw out.

Yep that's one isn't it

It's actually still got it's label in it. It's Noah Noah label, obviously bought in a sale and never worn would I wear it? Probably not am I going to throw it away? Probably not. Again I, I, I mean when I got it I obviously ment to wear it and now looking at it I like the colours erm I like the general pattern erm... and I'd like to think I will do something with it rather than just wear it as it is.

And how old do you think it is?

Has it got a date on it? Erm I would say this is probably oh. I recognise the shop Sea Salt it is a Noah Noah but it is from a shop called Sea Salt I got it in Cornwall and I've been going down to Cornwall for the last six years so it's between, it's probably about four years old.

Cool thank you. Erm and then garments that you've had for the longest.

Oh here they are heres one. Im sure you photographed this last time I don't know if that matters. This I've had for ever, for absoloute ever. For ever and a day. This blue jumper.

No I don't think

No not on there? I'm surprised this is ancient.

Erm how old do you think it is?

Erm this is easily easily 20 years old easily 20 plus.

Erm it's cotton isn't it and how often would you wear it?

All of the time. Just in the summer no...

All of the time?

Absoloutly all of the time yer.

And who is it by?

Because its got huge sleeves you see you could actually even wear. You could even wore I even wore a jumper inside this and then put that over the top of the jumper because its got these huge armholes. Look at the size of the armholes. Its just really, really practical its really, really stretched from all of the washing erm who is it by? Er who is it by? Who is it by? It was by someone actually youll be surprised to hear. I got that in America a long long time ago erm and wore it on that holiday and never stopped wearing it and ive got a funny feeling Emily that it might even be somebody like Nicole Fari.

Oh really

You know when she used to do those women's shaped easy wear nice materials. Er yer and I got it in California. So it might be someone like her. Erm... I don't know if you want two cardigans you might not but this is another cardigan that I just wear all of the time. But you might have too many so just put that with that one if so.

Er it's erm things that you've had the longest?

Oh longest no, that isn't the longest erm things that I've had the longest... oh whell there is two things so you can chose either of use both but both of these I've had oh actually there are three things four things so you can chose. Er this a friend got for me in erm er... the dress a friend got it for me oh actually it isn't that old erm... in '98 so its quite old but maybe not that old so its probably about ten years old. Er this is probably about you've probably photographed this before erm this is old this Viella jumper this is probably about '94 so probably about 20 years old.

And do you still wear it?

Yes yep. It's in that catergory like that blue jumper erm its just really nice cotton except this hasn't gone out of shape quite as much as the jumper of the cardigan erm but it just washes it just will wash it doesn't get those little balls on it.

So it's they basically are easy to care as well?

Easy care yer really easy care. Easy wear and easy care.

Sorry.

Oh little avalanche. You can just put them slightly to the side if you want.

Yes

And then you can pile more things on over there.

Like that?

Yer. Erm this this is erm... of all of the jackets this is probably the jacket that I wear more than any other jacket. When Per Una first came out in M&S I'ts just again such a practical jacket erm... oh when did Per Una come out 2014? Erm this must be about 15 years or so and I just wear it it probably needs a good clean actually. Just wear it and wear it and wear it. You can see how old it is by the different colours in the lining.

Cool

And I don't know whether you've photographed this before but this is another... original French Connection jumper probably from the 80's probably that old. And completely gone out of shape erm...

So 80's so that's

Yep

30, 30

Yer and its I think its actually silk I donk know I think I remember when I got it it was silk and it was in the days when people liked French Connection these chains made things really nicely and I wear this like a second skin. Its always to hand so like now when I start... well I've got it out I will probably be on for the evening. Its just really nice on your skin and just easy, you know you just roll up the sleeves you can do anything in it. And erm yer it just feels really nice. But it's ancient absouloutly ancient, it's probably the oldest thing I've got and again, it's got a few pulls on it but it's just really hard wearing, really really hard wearing. You know it just goes in the machine with everything else. It just seems to go and go an go.

Cool, so newest garments now?

Newest. Okay well this is the newest and I got this form the same shop as the ones that I am wearing erm and they are infact so new that I haven't worn them yet but I really like them I might have photographed these for you.

Anthropology

Yer and they are just an nice... nice colours and nice weight and erm stop me wearing my jeans of an evening.

Ok and erm...

Which I am going to do.

So you got these in February?

It might even have been. Yes it was February that I got them yer. Erm... last week I got this head band I will bring it down. [can't hear as walking up the stairs] I don't know whether that's too small or doesn't fit the categories but I got this fantastic little headband and like I wore this at the weekend and it was great for the beach when we were just lying on towels and then we went for a swim and I could wear it like a swimming hat erm you can wear it... so that's how I wore it. I wore it as a head band and then as a hat in the water. Erm a but you can also wear it if you've got a coat on it's a bit chilly you can wear it like that which I would do or if I'm in the garden I will just wear it as a headband just to keep my hair back. And that was the very latest thing erm I have a feeling...

So when...

I have a feeling that this is going to become one of those objects that I just wear and wear and wear and wear.

And erm so what is it a couple of weeks old did you say?

About two weeks old yer.

Cool thank you.

I hadn't realised I'd, well I haven't bought anything else so erm... I hadn't realised I was still supposed to be photographing.

Oh no don't worry. Erm garments that have had alterations repairs that's going to be these two and the jumper.

Yer, I've got a feeling that you took a photo of the jumper but do you want me to see if I can fish it down?

Erm... only if it's not a problem

Well it's either there or it's not.

Ok

So er yer. Do you want the light on? Have you got enough light?

Oh it's fine thank you. [Lucy goes upstairs to find it] cool oh. Brilliant, thank you.

I really like that I'm really so pleased with that.

Yer it looks really lovely.

I'm so happy to get my jumper back. I am disproportionately happy about this jumper.

It is really lovely isn't it

Yes

What you've done?

Yes and I you know it had got to the stage of un-wearability so if nothing else I'm just happy for my jumper. It's such an easy technique.

Erm trying to think how old are these two dresses?

Erm... the one that im doing the Japanese technique on, is very old... erm probably about... 12 years old.

And then the other one?

The other one er I've not worn and I've probably had not that long probably about four years but not under active consideration. Kind of piled somewhere.

And then the jumper is what 25 years?

Oh ...

Old?

Oh easily yer...

Cool.

Yer, I'm thrilled with that jumper.

Erm any garments that still need maintenance to continue... I suppose there are those two arnt there...?

Yer well there's things like I didn't get out I sort of made this basket of things that you know that I would look at and I would now work on on my own you know if we don't get a workshop going and I will do the... so like this jumper I did quite like, but its kind of ripped and whatever erm but having looked at felting now in stead of just sewing that up might even think of you know erm so yer there was that. Erm think this has got a few holes in it and I've got a hat that's got some holes in it which which I had a quick go at felting and the needle broke.

Oh no, oh I might actually have some needles with me.

And the needle broke and that's it so yer that was what I was going to do with that one and I had an equipment failure

Oh no.

But I thought that looked quite cute. Erm yer so I had all this you know those little bits of wool that you gave me. And I've got a pair of trousers that I've never worn and need hemming so when I get my machine... I mean they're walking trousers er I'm going up to it's a shame I haven't done these as I'm going up to the Lake District in June so my leaving school anniversary with some old school friends and we will all be walking but you know I mentioned I've got very long legs if I buy ordinary trousers they are too short in general so I have to buy these really long trousers which are then far too long. And take them up I could do it by hand but if I wait till I get my machine I can do it by machine now. With my new found confidence there are those that are waiting...

And then yes. Just quickly it was which... the garments that you were going to get rid of and that was the green..?

Trousers.

And the black sparkly dress?

Lovely sparkly dress. I cant believe you are not saying to me to Emily now [Lucy] that is an object of pure beauty.

I'm not here to make any erm...

Judgements?

Judgements.

So that that, oh yes this thing. I actually found actually wrapped around a dress. And that was hanging on a hanger over a dress. So there are three.

Erm so these, how old would you say the jeans were?

Oh god Emily I don't know what they are even doing in the wardrobe? They are, I do believe those might even be 70's. possibly early 80's but of that era.

So thirty plus?

That means thirty yer. certainly thirty.

And when do you think was the last time that you wore them?

Er oh there is an indication of my... oh erm you can see the size. Look at that little waist. Er... gap. When I bought these that's how I became something can you see. Look at that that was my it's done the job.

And you cant really see.

No that is the one and only example of my sewing that you will see.

Shall I take a picture of it?

You should take a picture, yer but that is an example of [Lucys] sewing. It just goes to show I have done sewing. You won't see one single other example but there we are.

So you probably what haven't worn them for? 20 years?

Oh yes, yes. And these are not... these are a pair of very very old jeans that I probably have thought when they were last dug out oh I will wear those, might wear them in the garden but I wont I mean they are the wrong size theyer you know the wrong shape er there is nothing to recommend them. And nothing to recommend these two objects either. Er... yes I mean horid I don't even know can't I cant even think where where I'll... I don't know what this is about to be honest.

Erm how old do you think the dress is?

Oh. Do you know what I don't even have a catergory there where somebody just puts a question mark and says I have no idea. No nowhere to even I mean its atmosphere so it cant be that old can it?

Vera Moda... Vera Moda... oh its got a pin in it.

Its got a pin?

Maybe you were going to shorten it or something?

No I cant imagine I would. Cant imagine I would erm... I think I must have been doing something else had the stuff out and then...

You just stuck a pin on it.

But I'm going to take the pin out because that is going to bight the dust and I don't want somebody to.. yer it's like some of the stuff that weve pulled out today that's got you know like my old erm... used tissues in the pockets. You know that just get stuffed in there and left.

Erm so this Atmosphere top how old do you think this is?

Erm... oh maybe eight years old I don't know I mean this is a complete you know I'm picking numbers at random for this erm... yer there are somethings that I could say, but these last two objects I just you know, don't.

Do you think.... When was the last time that you wore it?

Erm... I can't really even ever remember wearing it. You know when you find a cuckoo in the nest and you think where did that come from and what's it doing there? And did that walk in and plant itself in my wardrobe? Cause it's not my colours, or style or...

Cool erm and then just to very, very quickly finish off... erm I suppose it's just looking at how many, what you have do you think you have? How many jersey tops do you think you have?

Erm by jersey tops do you mean like a?

Erm... I suppose t-shirts and jersey tops.

T-shirts and jersey tops. Erm I've probably got about easily 20.

Erm shirts...?

Button up shirts I've probably got about, probably about eight

Eight, ok and then tops... that are not considered shirts or t-shirts.

Yer probably got about 15, I've got quite a few.

Erm jackets?

Erm yer, rain jacket ordinary jacket probably got about five actually.

Erm...

I wear a lot of jackets.

Coats or do you class those as a...

No I have got coats and I do wear coats, erm... I've got probably three coats that I wear all of the time and I've probably got a couple of coats that I don't wear often so probably about five or six.

Six erm dresses?

Erm well I've got two here one, two, three here four, five here.

Six?

Oh don't

Seven?

Seven ah and I've got some dresses that I don't wear a lot but I wear when I need to. So I would easily double that then 14 no 15. 15.

15 erm skirts.

Skirts I wear less but I probably do have a number of skirts I probably say about nine.

Nine ok erm jeans.

Jeans I've probably got... how about half a dozen pairs. Six pairs.

Six trousers?

Trousers, well I've got two here haven't I. Er, three here, erm one that needs altering and er other trousers three... probably less actually. Ive probably got about five.

Shorts...?

Shorts erm probably got about three pairs of shorts.

Ok erm... and then jumpers?

Ive got a lot, erm ive got one two, three here four, five , I've probably got about half a dozen. No more than that. I must have a couple that I wear occasionally. Probably got about nine.

Cardigans?

Cardigans. I've got a couple here. I've easily got about four upstairs. Erm probably got about eight as well.

Erm cool. So thank you very much. And then do you think today's discussion has affected anything else to do with clothing? Or do you think its just a carry on of what's been going on really?

Erm yer I'd say there is definitely a carry on element erm, but I also think that it does make you think erm you know, do you need to prioritise if I'm gonna do any sewing or customising erm... it has definetly got to find a way to set some time away to set aside to go through my wardrobe and rationalise it and also I, I would actually quite like to do some pleasurable sewing. Erm not necessarily with a purpose but you know erm... embroidery or, you know just yer I think I'd quite like to look at some sewing courses. Maybe not dressmaking but er I actually really loved the workshops. I adored them Emily so its ist probably made me think now I am going to do something to think about what's available, you know. There's various little colleges round there but you do do lightweight erm interesting and fun things.

Yes because you would almost from what you are saying you would almost want something that I don't know whether it's... it's difficult to know what kind of thing whether it would be embroidery or... its difficult to know what..

Yer I mean if it was a workshop...

Or craft really.

Yes if there was a craft or a workshop like what you've been doing I would be like yay! Erm but colleges don't tend to do that do they so you have to do courses. But you know. You've got to make the most of what's available you can't say your not doing anything because there isn't a craft course of there isn't a workshop where you can bring along and with the support of the group and a facilitator.

So...

You know I would actually think about doing some kind of course as long as it wasn't heavy weight or exam orientated. As long as it was a bit of fun.

Ok brilliant and then is there anything else that you wanted to add?

Erm no just just that's its been... you've made the process really nice its been an enjoyable functional erm really lovely way to learn.

Good.

Yer you know it's a very hard thing to achive actually so I would underestimate what you've achived with the workshops.

And also thank you for all you time as well.

Oh not at all its been a pleasure.

All your time and effort.

Its been a pleasure I think you know that was the understanding wasn't it. When we signed up so erm...

Cool thank you very much.

8.2.12.2 Interview 2. Monday the 9th June 8pm

Recording: 33:31 minuets

At the interviewee's home in Islington.

Interviewer: *Emily Towers*

Interviewee: participant 1, Sonya

Its fine for the moment.

Cool

Perfect

It's working, so I suppose first of all can you tell me why you decided to volunteer for this study again?

Erm cause I thought it would be... because my sewing's terrible and erm I thought it would be useful to have... erm those, those skills basically. Pretty much exactly, why, you were offering it up so I could do things like hems and bits and pieces of my own, repair work. I'm so bad.... As you've seen.

And how did, or didn't these workshops manage to address these topics?

Yep definitely. I thought the thing I'll use the most cause I will have to do hems is the invisible hem which I've actually since hemmed everything that needed doing. And something's I was going to take in to you know shops so I've done everything. In my own time as well. Get me! [laughing] so its brilliant for that. That's probably the thing that I will use the most. Erm... but yer just generally or yer just using a machine and you know having access to a machine and practicing on things. And I think it just gives you the confidence to think oh I could do that instead of automatically assuming that you can't.

Cool and then how satisfied were you with the workshops on a scale of one to five. Five being very satisfied, one being not so satisfied.

Being not so satisfied... errr... I would say four.

And then which of the workshops do you feel was the most successful for you? We've got mending by hand which was darning and patching, introduction to the sewing machine so that was machine darning and all of those bits.

Erm

And you weren't there for replacing a zip?

No that's annoying that.

Applique, needle felting, invisible mending...

Invisible mending.

And why do you think that was?

Cause it's probably the one that I will use the most in my own life. I think even if I had been shown how to replace a zip its probably not something id use... and also I haven't got a sewing machine so...

Yer.

But you know... using a machine was good because I've not really done that since school so that was good but I'd still go invisible mending.

And then erm.. Do you think the most successful one for you was also the most relevant to you?

Yer.

Cool erm... and then can you remember the garments that you mended in the workshops. Where they... I think they were predominantly a pair of trousers.

Yep. I had again in was, my hemming really. I still haven't done those trousers that you said, you advised that I get some ribbon for. I got some ribbon I just haven't sewn it on.

Oh cool.

I'll do it

And then how happy are you with the garments? That you've done?

Oh yer perfect yer. Worn them and everything.

Erm you've worn them since. How do you... do you know how frequently you've worn them?

Er trousers, I've worn at least twice.

Erm.. and then do you think anything about that garment has changed? Or do you think your feelings about that garment has changed? Since you've mended them?

Yer I'm more likely to wear them because before I had them sort of just tacked up at the sides and I sort of didn't feel like they sat properly so now that I've done it properly.. er yer definitely more likely to wear them.

And you mentioned that since starting mending workshops you've done most of the hems on your trousers.

Yer I've done all of the ones that needed doing and some hems on tops and any hem. I had a few that were coming down cause things that are form Zara are so badly made the hems come down all of the time so I've just repaired everything.

Erm.. and what do you think the benefits are for mending or customising your own garments?

Erm.... Well mending it means you can... that they last longer erm.. and I haven't really customised anything to be honest but I have in the past. So erm.. Well I think you know well I've bought things before where I've bought it knowing that I'm going to customise it and I wouldn't have bought it otherwise and I buy it cause I think that's a really good price if I just chop the bottom off and just do this so it just gives it... it just means it's a bit more unique to you as well.

Erm and do you think there are any disadvantages to doing mending or customising your own clothes?

Ok... *getting it wrong*? Because you are not that accomplished. But to be honest even that is not a big deal because normally by that point I'm only going to... I wouldn't keep it at all unless I was going to customise it so...

Yer so its not really...

So it doesn't matter if you get it wrong because you were going to get rid of it anyway.

And then do you think that you are going to continue using the skills that you have learnt in the workshops?

Yep.

Good and on a one to five ratio again.

One to five erm.. Well with the invisible mending definitely, mending so I guess four. But If I did it across the whole workshop, maybe a three to be fair.

Erm and the reason for doing it you've kind of already mentioned that ist just solving problems...

Yep, yep yep.

And then would you be confident teaching any of the mending techniques to friends and family do you think?

Yer I said to mum actually that I knew how to do an invisible hem properly and that we've been doing it wrong for years. And it had been taking us twice as long. And she said 'oh great' so yer [laughing]

Erm and then can you remember the little probe, with the little cards...

Yes.

That I gave you.

Yeeees, urm, yer

How did you find it? Did you...

I only sent you one picture didn't I? erm... I sort of forgot. But I haven't really bought much since then anyway mind you saying that these jeans are new. So I was supposed to have sent you a picture of, aren't I really?

So do you think that's the only garment that you've probably bought other than....

No I sent you the jumper. I also bought a dress, which I remember I never sent you a picture of erm... I haven't bought a lot though. Probably two jumpers, a pair of jeans and a dress.

Erm ... with the one thing that you did photograph. How did it make you feel having to take a picture of it and send it to me?

Erm... it probably made me more aware of my purchases, actually if anything.

And do you think it's affected your buying habits? Or...

Erm its hard to answer because my buying habits are different because I wasn't working erm.. Probably not really.

Ok and then yes so we've already spoken about that that in total you've bought five things, no four things sorry. Since...

Yep.

Erm and then this is just a general discussion about clothing. How do you think the study overall has affected your attitudes to clothing?

Erm.. Do I think it has? Erm.. I was quite conscious anyway about sustainability and cheap clothes how they are made and ethics and things like that. I'm quite aware of those things. Erm.. So I don't know if its really,. I suppose it's given me... I suppose it's given me the confidence to think I can sort of repair and customise things a bit more, myself.

Erm.. and then when you are shopping for clothes. Is there anything that you are doing differently since the start of the study?

Erm... Not really no. Probably not.

I supposed its quite difficult because it was a very different period to what you would normally have been.

Yer exactly.

And

Yer, yer

Because I suppose you'll start buying again?

Yer exactly, when I've been working, yer, but then I've tried to stop spending as much money on clothes anyway because I've got no room for anything. That's the other thing.

Erm.. and then what do you think about the quality of clothing available in the shops at the moment?

I think erm some of it is really badly made, you can see that it is really fast fashion and that they do very quick turnarounds you know if you buy something from Zara it doesn't last longer than a season it will, shirts will end up with holes in them on the seams and you know. And hems always come down. So I don't think its great, I think to a degree you get what you pay for so the more you spend... but then I also find places like Whistles and Reiss really overpriced for what you get I don't believe its that much better quality so you should be paying, that much more.

And erm.. cause you mentioned that you can tell the difference between very bad sewing and good sewing can you tell the difference between what you would consider to be a good quality fabric...

Yer definitely, yer. But then I'd say I've been quite conscious of that anyway though. Erm.. But yer you can definitely tell the difference in fabrics.

Erm and then I suppose what we ended up doing with you that you can't necessarily see the change of aesthetics... erm.. What do you think to the aesthetics of clothes altered or mended at home and or I suppose customised? And things like that because, compared to shop bought garments?

Erm well they are more individual if you do it yourself. And that you can see a lot of people in the same you know in the same clothes so its nice that you can be erm.. individual but then you cant always tell it depends how good people are at customising really. But then I would never go... I suppose customising I would probably only do things with sort of lengths I probably wouldn't add a lot of detail to anything personally.

Erm.. and then what does the term sustainability mean to you?

Erm it means.. I don't really know how to answer that.

I know it's really difficult.

What does it mean to me? Sustainability. Erm.. I don't know I don't know how to answer what it means to me.

Yer it's a huge question really for people it can mean anything really.

Yer exactly. Yer I'll have a think and come back to it. Yer random.

Sorry.

No it's fine, it's important. I think it's really important.

Then we are going to go over some of the questions that I asked you before. Just as a bit of a... erm.. What are your main reasons for discarding or getting rid of a garment? Would you say?

Erm normally because its just tired . You know I hold on to stuff, tired or out of style.

And then how often do you think you get rid of things?

I am quite good I will do a proper clear out at least once a year. And I will probably get rid of things, you know just randomly between those times as well. If it needs if its gone, if I'm not wearing it anymore or if I buy another item to replace it then it goes. I've got no room for anything.

So its kind of small things and then how much would the big on be?

Like what how often would I do it?

Well if you were doing one big clear out...

Yer once a year probably.

And then how much do you think that would...

How much would I get rid of? Erm probably a couple... a bin bag at least.

And then how much sewing experience, or confidence do you think you've gained after participating in the workshops? Again if we use the rating scale of one to five.

Probably three.

Three erm.. and what about using a sewing machine? How do you feel about that?

Yer definitely better because I was terrible with a sewing machine.

And what would that be a number three? Again?

Erm... probably a three. yep.

Erm and then are you... just to go tick the boxes ... how confident are you about doing the following? Darning?

Darning, that wasn't the... oh ish. What are we ticking...

Well just ticking whether you are happy to do it.

Er yer yer. I'd be happy to do it.

Sure.

Not sure what it would look like.

Lengthening.

Erm no. How do you lengthen?

You would have to add a bit of fabric or you could if there's fabric when you undo the hem then you could actually...

Make a new hem

And you could actually...

Oh I could do that. Tick that. It's the same as shortening, lengthening. Patching?

Yer. Slight alterations in size?

Erm no.

Invisible mending?

Yes.

Repairing tears?

Erm did we cover that?

A little bit.

Well I might have missed that one. Probably not.

Re-seaming broken stitch work.

Yep that's fine.

And customising?

Yep.

Cool. Oh and we've got some more, sewing, re-sewing buttons on.

Yes fine.

Major alterations?

Erm no.

Cool. And then erm if we could go on to the... I don't know whether you've had chance to get any of these garments?

I haven't had chance but we can just go upstairs and I can just get them out as we go.

Ok cool.

If that's fine.

Its just to go over the things again. Cool.

Its really muggy isn't it. Bring those up if you want.

Yer let's er, I'll get my camera. Oh you are looking so much more settled here now.

Oh God yer cause when you came before I'd literally only just moved in I think know I still had boxes everywhere oh and its still not perfect but its still a lot better. Lot better.

And are you still with the same guy.

Yer with [...] yer. Yes all good, all good we will see. We will see.

But he lives further away doesn't so. he?

Yer he lives in like Kensington Olympia but its quite good for Richmond for work. Hate going up to Richmond it's annoying.

So you must be spending more time with him than here.

Exactly, which suits him. He hates coming over here.

[laughing] He doesn't like it..?

Oh he's so posh...

Erm... in the original interview we looked at garments that in all of these areas before. I was just wondering wherever you think your thoughts have changed about the different categories.

Ok, so...

We had favourite garments, and garments that you don't wear but keep... garments that you wear all of the time...

And have you got? Do you know what I said before?

I've got pictures. I've just printed it.

So I'm not cheating by looking at what I said before am I?

So

That's all right then. Okay favourites... oh yer they are still my favourites. Amazing I'd only add. I'd add... which is the one you haven't taken a picture of. Erm but that's only because its new its my favourite. One of my favourites. Is the dress that I bought that I didn't take a picture of.

That's lovely.

That's nice isn't it I got it for 50 quid because I had a voucher and I waited for it to go into the sale.

And then erm... how old... when did you buy it?

That I bought this just after Christmas I think kind of January time.

Its nice isn't it?

Yer I really like the Kooples they do make things nicely but then they charge as well.

Yer they are expensive well they all of the French brands at that level like the Comptoir des Cottonniers

Yep which I like as well...

Sandro that's very expensive.

Maije.

Thank you. So you bought this in...

January.

January. Cool thank you and then you think the other ones...

Yer they are still my favourites, definitely, that other dress definitely is. That's all good. Oh yer garments that you've kept and never worn but kept. That's... so I've still got that

Dress.

Erm...

If I remember correctly that was one that erm...

Its that one.

Yes because it was erm.. something that people wore for fancy dress.

Yep that's right. Very good, that is. And I just... that one is well made and I just think well that is just a little shift dress and It could come round again erm.... What else have I kept and I still don't wear. I'm pretty good with what I wear to be fair. Well I have got some other dresses like I've got that dress and I cant see wearing that one soon. I've still got it but then that hasn't really changed just in the time that, no it hasn't really changed.

Oh sorry to go back to the Kooples dress... how often do you wear that one? .

Erm I've worn it about three times but that's probably really.. Because it you know it only works for certain occasions really.

So I'ts more of a smart.

Yer.

Evening thing..

I think so yer.

And It's probably getting a little hot for it as well to be worn again.

Yer.

Garments that you wear all of the time.

Jeans still.... I mean jeans, jeans and more jeans. Yer look you've got jeans on there. Oh what ones that?

I think they were JCrew ones.

Erm... what's that dress?

Could it have been black...

Oh I know...

It will have been a black shift dress and a jacket.

Yer it will it will be like this. It will be like... I'd forgotten about that one it will be that one. Erm yer its still exactly the same. Still the same I just live in jeans. A combination of jeans, cami tops and yer jackets. Yer that's what I do.

And do you think you are wearing a similar wardrobe I suppose to what you wore in your last job or do you think any of its changed?

Yer, no similar.

Similar and you don't have to dress up that smart except for occasions?

Yer exactly. So my kind of weekend and weekday wardrobe all sort of runs into one really.

Erm cool and then garments that you've had the longest or the oldest...

There look the irony I'm actually wearing that top look I'm wearing that shirt today. Look that's that one, so I still wear it [laughing] I'd sort of forgotten about it a bit. Erm yer, no still the same yer I haven't really, I haven't had a clear out. Definitely not.

And then the newest garments that you have. Erm so I suppose we've got the dress that you've recently bought.

Yep.

And the jumpers and things like that.

And also actually I've just realised this is also new.

That's lovely.

And I just realised I bought a jumpsuit as well. But that's because I had a work function. Only Topshop but its cute though. Do you need pictures of those?

Yes please. So this top, when do you think you bought that one?

That I bought... just before I started work again was it? Yes about six weeks ago probably.

Cool. Sorry I'm just going to get the details. So its COS. And then how often do you think that you have been wearing it?

I've worn that about three times. And I actually, actually I bought that to go with a pair of trousers that I have since taken up, hemmed that I hadn't worn before, because I needed to do them.

Cool and you will probably wear that all year round, will you?

Yer I think so. Well its sort of summary but... and this I've worn once because it was actually bought for a work function.

[as getting details from the garments] Are you going away on holiday anywhere?

Yer trying to book something. I've got a hen weekend in erm.. Barcelona in July.

Yep.

And then we are trying to decide where we are going to go in the summer as well I'm not sure yet. What about you?

Erm not sure I think we've got... we've got two or three weeks in-between my brothers wedding and Owen's sisters wedding that we are thinking about going away but we don't really know where. So Owen just thinks we should just go to his parents holiday home in Anglesey cause it's free you know when it's like I don't really know whether I want to do that.

Yer I don't think.

And can we not go somewhere a little bit more exciting.

Exotic, yer exactly.

Actually... its 100% polyester. So you've had that about once. How old would you say that those were?

That is about three weeks old.

And that's for smart?

Yer

Cool. Wicked. We are racing through it tonight. Erm.. Any garments that you've had alterations or repairs done to them?

Erm...

Or that you've done yourself.

That I did myself yes my trousers, those trousers. Done loads of stuff, I've done those trousers I did oh and I've washed that top I think. Oh actually that was one of those tops as well because I re-hemmed the sleeves started to come down.

Cool

And I've got another top that's in the drycleaners.... Hum a few of them are in the dry cleaners.

So these trousers how old would you say they were?

I bought those last summer but I hadn't worn them at all. So I bought them in about august last year. I don't know where that top is you know.

And then have you worn them since you've...

Yes. Wore them last week in fact. There it is it needs to go to the dry cleaners. I should take it out of the drawer.

And they are quite smart aren't they, or would you wear them anytime?

Yer no they're kind of I wore them for like I wore them for a work evening kind of thing. But they're quite smart.

Cool thank you. And then I will just quickly take a picture of them. I might already... its difficult to tell if they are the same ones or not.

Lets have a look.

Cause I know...

Yer they are cause I no I'd just bought them they are the ones.

If we go on to the...

Yer that's terrible it needs to dry-clean that its... but I did all of this because all of this had... and this is Kooples and it had all come down. The hem had come down so I did it all myself. Very proud of myself.

Looks really good.

It's alright isn't it.

You can't see anything.

No I know I was very proud of myself. I've mastered the invisible hem cause I need it so much in my life.

I suppose its something that's easy to do that you can do while you are watching TV can't you.

Exactly. I did just sit there and have a marathon hemming session.

And then how old would you say that top was?

That? That's about three years old?

And then how often would you say you wore it?

Well look I've obviously worn it on a night out last time I don't even know if I'm going to get those stains out erm.. I probably wear it about three times a year. You know erm...

Did I take a picture of that I don't know? Yep cool

And then I did that as well...

Then that one.

I did the sleeves on that..

Smart aren't they.

Yer.

Erm and then the Zara top how old would you say that was?

That is about a year... erm.. eighteen months old.

And then how often would you say you wore it?

Quite a lot actually. Erm... about I wear it a lot I probably wear it sort of a couple of times a month.

Thank you and then do you have any other garments that still need work doing to them? Or

I'm up to date I think with all my repairs.

So for you is it more of a practical thing to keep garments that you still like and use?

Yer I think its more practical yer I think its more practical but that was one that I knew that when I bought it I was going to knock the bottom off it because it was a really weird length and I just made it really short. So it, it is mainly practical and the odd thing I'll be a bit more imaginative with.

Cool and erm.. are there any garments that you think you might be getting rid of in the next couple of months?

I probably do need to do a bit of a sort out erm.. but nothing that massively springs to mind because I didn't do one that long ago. Erm.. I mean I moved in here literally a year ago I moved in here and I would have done a sort out then. So I'm probably due for a sort out but when I look at my wardrobe I, I am wearing everything so no there probably isn't anything that needs to go at the moment. Maybe some jeans I think I need to da some jeans cull.

Cool thank you

That's all right.

And then if you don't mind just us doing a bit of a tot up. Do you think you've got rid of anything? Since...

No because I'd just done. Because I when I'd started this I'd just done a clear out.

So you don't think that it's changed really, its just the extra six pieces really that have been...

Yer, yer.

And then just to finish up do you think that today's discussion has affected your relationship with clothing or?

Erm probably not, not the discussion.

And then is there anything else that you want to add to it?

Erm anything else that I wanted to add? No im glad I did it it was good.

Cool.

Fabulous.

Thank you very much

Not at all.

8.2.12.3 Interview 3. Thursday the 19th June 3pm

Recording: 48:12 minuets

At the interviewee's home in Islington.

Interviewer: *Emily Towers*

Interviewee: participant 7, Bea

Erm... so first of all could you just tell me again why you decided to volunteer for this study? Just as a bit of a recap.

Yer because er I was interested to learn some mending skills erm I've got a few things that I could do like sew on a button but erm I'd like to learn more things like learning how to use a sewing machine a bit more and a few other sort of erm mending skills that you could use for upcycling or repairing items.

Erm and then how do you think the workshops managed to address or didn't address these issues.

Erm er the workshops were really good, erm cause I got to learn the new skills and some things that it would never have occurred to me to learn like the technique I can't remember the name of it actually the Japanese one where you sew the pattern with the stitches over the top of the patch. Erm things like that I don't know if I'd ever come across if id just sort of tried to teach myself things like that or if I'd done a traditional course in mending or something like that.

Cool and then how satisfied do you think you were to the workshops on a scale of one to five one being unsatisfied and five being very satisfied.

Erm probably four.

And which of the workshops do you think was the most successful that you attended.

Probably the one where I did sew the pattern.

And for what reason? Was that because it was something different? Or...

Yer because it was completely new to me and I thought it gave a very sort of attractive result, and it wasn't too difficult to do and I feel that I've learnt that skill now and I can use that in the future and it will stay with me.

And then out of the ones that you came to which one was the most relevant to you?

Probably something like darning, or fixing holes in wool you know with either darning or needle felting.

Yer [Lucy] was saying that that was her favourite as well.

She loved it didn't she.

Erm.. cool and then why do you think they were most relevant?

Erm because I've probably got woolly garments, I've got woolly socks erm its obviously good to repair those and to keep them going for a long time because they can obviously last years if you buy good wool and you can repair it.

Cool and then thinking back to the garments that you mended or did things to in the workshops. I think you made erm, we played with one of your t-shirts didn't we.

Yer we did.

Erm what did you think to it?

Erm... I liked, I enjoyed doing it erm.. I don't think that the specific garment that I did the things to I would wear the garment but it was just a rubbishy old t-shirt that I brought along. I liked putting the, I put something round the collar a bit of... I can't even remember the word of it.

Was it binding?

Yer I put some binding round it and that was good I liked that effect. And the one, I also did something where I platted, I put some cuts in and sort of platted them through on the sleeves to create, well a platted shape and erm... that's probably something I might do with some kids or something like that because its almost a fun thing to alter the garment with but I don't know whether id do it to any old garment for me. It's a little bit Notting Hill carnival or something. For me.

Yer its difficult because there are so many different things and you probably want to try then out yer, yer, before you know which ones are relevant to you and you want to use them yourself.

Yer that's it, yer.

Erm... so how successful do you think they were?

Erm... I thought they were successful. I was pleased with the outcome with them and I felt that I'd done reasonably well and with a bit more practice on the technique I could if I was going to do it on anything I feel I could do it.

But as you've said... have you worn it since?

Erm I've worn it in bed [laughing] but not outside the house yet. It was that kind of t-shirt anyway to begin with.

And from what you were kind of saying and from the workshop that it wasn't necessarily your taste or...

Yer.. it felt a bit sort of 90's or something the look of it by the end of it I think. Not a look that I'm currently rocking [laughing].

So cause I think that's something that I think is quite interesting because what do you think to? Do you think that there's an aesthetic to clothes that you've personalised or accessorised?

Yer I think so yer so I try and wear things that are plainish nowadays if I can. Erm with one or two things that might be a bit more jazzy. Erm so yer I think yer I probably wouldn't alter something to be, like I probably wouldn't do the felting the way that the other volunteer did you know with the colours and it looked a little bit hippy for example. Lets call it hippy. I wouldn't style myself that way. So

Yer so its very easy to fall into the trap I suppose of doing a craft technique or something to a garment and it could look a certain...

Yep, hum.

Erm sorry, so you've been saying that you've been wearing it in bed. Frequently? Or...

Probably just once or twice. I've still got it I mean I have thought about getting rid of it but then I again I've hung on to it because I've adjusted it myself and it's a real reminder to me of the skills that I've learnt so there's a reason that I'm hanging on to it.

Ok erm, and then since starting the mending workshops have you sewn anything else aside of...

Have I let me think? I feel like I have and I'm trying to think what it would be. Erm... I think I might sort of mended a hole in a cardigan or something like that. I think.

Erm... and then what do you think the benefits of mending or customising garments are to you?

Erm I think erm increasing the life time of a garment is good... erm.. I don't I don't want to subscribe to disposable fashion too much really so I'd rather try and pick up new or second hand items of reasonable quality and then keep them going.

Erm and how have you found all of that with maternity wear and everything? Like that

Er... I was given a lot of clothes by one friend in particular who's a similar size to me so I wore all of her clothes. I bought for myself bras and pants and a couple of pairs of leggings they are probably the only things that I bought for my maternity so just those basic garments and the rest she gave me she gave me some dresses and things I think it was one of her cardigans that I mended a little hole in actually, one of the ones she gave me cause she's probably put them away for a couple of years not realising there was a hole in it.

Or they'd been attacked...

By moths yer.

Scourge of north London. Erm.. and then what do you think the disadvantages are to mending or customising? Your clothes?

I think I'm the sort of person who likes to sit down and do a job and its done if it's a mend where you have to go round the shops or buy something and then find the time to mend it and it takes more than one sitting, I might just wear it anyway and just never get round to fixing it. Erm so I like quick fixes I suppose.

And then what do you think about if you were doing a major alteration on something would you ever consider the possibility that It might not work out?

Yer absolutely because I think I try to fix things without knowing how to fix things and haven't fixed things properly in the past and they have maybe worked for a couple of wears and then they've fallen apart or maybe got a hole in a different place or something like that and with those ones I think then you would either say ok well I'll have to throw it away now its really dead now or you would get it mended properly by somebody. Who new what they were doing.

And then do you think you would continue using the skills that you've developed over the workshop.

Yer definitely. I'm going to get a sewing machine

Cool, have you been looking on Gumtree?

Well my mum has one that she's going to give to me. That she bought in the last eight years I think. We just got rid of one on freecycle that belonged to my Nanna on freecycle and it was from the 70's in a piece of furniture in a really ugly piece of furniture. It was like a table and it opened out erm but it was just a bit old and a bit ugly and we didn't want it in the house really so we freecycled it and the lady came from Essex and picked it up and was very excited to have it.

Oh wow.

That's how I'll feel when I get my mums nice small modern sewing machine.

Yer when my sister and I first moved into our flat we found an old, I think it's a singer sewing machine in the attic.

Oh really.

But I just don't know what to do with it, so we've just left it there. Because you obviously need a table and...

Erm erm...

And sorry if we do a one to five of how much you think you will use your skills.

Yer probably four. Four

Four. Erm and so why do you think you will be doing this and using them? And getting a sewing machine and things?

Erm well I wanted to learn. I wanted to learn skills erm... was the question why?

Erm yer why do you think you are going to continue?

Erm... yer I just I'd just like to like I said keep my items going really. Whether I'm darning them or putting on new buttons or tarting them up a bit yer.

And soon this one will be tearing holes in his knees [talking about baby] erm and do you think you will be confident to teach any of the mending techniques to friends and family?

Yer I'd certainly have a go if somebody had something they needed to fix if they had it there I could erm show them or help them yer...

Cool. Erm and then erm I don't know whether I ever properly gave this to you but I made a probe card to erm take pictures of things when you were buying things erm...

I think I sent you one email.

With a couple of things on. How did you find using it? Did you find it erm difficult or uncomfortable taking pictures of the garments?

No not really, easy.

Erm and did it effect your buying habits at all?

Erm.. No I don't think so.

Erm and then from the emails that you sent I think you sent me a skirt and a pair of leggings. Brightly coloured erm black and white leggings. Do you think you bought anything else other than those two?

Erm er... I bought some navy blue leggings... erm and maybe some plain vests black underwear that sort of thing.

Erm and then we are just going to go on to a general discussion on clothing and things.

Erm... How do you think this study has affected your attitudes to clothing?

I don't know really...

Do you think it's changed it? Or do you think it's just the same?

I feel like I had quite a, make do and mend attitude to begin with I just didn't have the skills. So I would just probably be more confident to mend something like maybe if I came across something in a charity shop that was more of a fix up job I'd have more skills to actually do that now.

Erm and then do you think you've got a similar amount of garments that you had before in your wardrobe?

Erm I had some that came out of storage actually but I'd say that there was only a couple of things that I pulled out to keep. Lets say I pulled out one huge bin bag I probably only kept three or four things from it. They were probably things like jackets. I had a down filled jacket. Ski jacket that I was very fond of that I thought I'd actually lost so like I kept that and that's been mended over the years actually because I've had it a long time. So I've probably got round about the same amount erm we generally had the kind of influx of baby things and we hadn't bought any storage for the things so all my drawers are kind of already packed full of stuff so I'm trying to do a bit of rationalising so some of my things have been going to charity and I've also purchased a lot of those vacuum seal bags for compressing garments so I'm going to get my winter stuff out and get it away until winter and visa versa for the summertime stuff later. Erm which I've never done before which seems a good idea cause freeing up some space.

Yep. Yer I suppose its just more the... the changes because of having a little one rather than anything else. And erm yer we do the vacuum storage but it think it's more for trying to protect things from moths...

Moths yer. There's that as well. We have the odd moth buzzing around.

Our flats terrible, but we live in the attic so I don't know whether that makes it worse. Erm... and then you've kind of said that you don't think that anything's really changed. Do you think that your shopping habits have changed? Or?

I don't think so but I really my shopping habits are just ruled by necessity at the moment more than anything so I'm not really buying money on myself unless its something that I need like a maternity bra for breastfeeding for example and you find like any of this specialist equipment – lets call it isn't cheap either. So that's where my clothes money is going towards at the moment.

Specialist equipment!

Specialist equipment. In fact they're 30 pounds each these bras, honestly they're...

Really!

Yer can't get them any cheaper. So apparently H&M do them but I cant be bothered to travel so...

That's shocking, what about Mothercare? Er...

Mothercare they only sell them in packs of two and they are 30 pounds for a pack of two so you are still spending thirty pounds.

Really naughty. Erm... Tesco, but that's only because my friend is the lingerie designer... maybe have a look on their website. And see if they are doing anything.

I did see a postcard somewhere, when I was out and about that it was erm a workshop you could turn your normal bras into this type of bra, but, it would probably have to be a non underwired bra to begin with because you don't really have any wiring in these kind of bras and all my old bras were underwired bras.

The joys, will you be able to start wearing underwired ones soon again?

Yer once you've finished breastfeeding and your boobs are your own again I think you can go onto normal bras. Its just because its uncomfortable really more than anything because your boobs are shrinking and growing all of the time.

But you need the stretch

Yer.

Erm and then what do you think to the general quality available in the shops at the moment?

Hum I don't know id say its pretty price point dependent, like the quality of the brand or the shop that you are shopping unless you spend hours in TKmaxx trying to hunt out the bargains, good quality bargains. Erm... theres obviously a lot of availability of cheap mass-produced clothing that falls apart after one season.

Hum...

Erm... and then good quality stuff. But then again I've also had experiences where I've bought or looked at expensive things or bought expensive things and they still come apart, but maybe because they are sometimes more delicate or floaty or something like that you've got to be a bit more delicate.

And then do you think you can tell the difference between the quality of the fabrics and how well a garment's been made?

Hum... I'd say generally yes.

Because you did used to work as a erm... because you did tell me in another life you had something like 50 pairs of jeans...

Yer that's right yer a lot of jeans. [laughing].

Erm what do you think about? ... oh I've already asked you that. And then what do you think the term sustainability means to you?

Erm... well its probably a kind of cycle it starts even from sort of growing cotton production of fabrics, the whole process really, so obviously everything uses energy, water whether you are making a garment or growing crops, transporting it, selling it in a shop, things like that.

Hum...

So erm... longevity of the items as well, so obviously an items could probably be classed as more as a sort of sustainable thing if its something that you buy to last a long time. I guess that's why the price points so high. Your going to buy it once aren't you. Maybe twice so...

Yer. Which is why this cots such a good idea. That you can just hire it.

They hire a few things like that, car seats and prams and things as well.

Erm cool is there anything else that you wanted to add to that? Because I feel like I just stopped you in mid...

Er... no I guess not I guess like the environmental issues would be important as well for sustainability because obviously if you cut trees or use energy you sort of want to make up for that. Things like wages even as well for people who are working away making garments in India or wherever they are . Their lives shouldn't be unsustainable as a result of our consumerism on the other side of the world.

Cool thank you erm and then this is just going to go over I suppose some of the things that I asked you before. Erm... what do you think your main reasons are for discarding and getting rid of a garment?

Erm... probably if I didn't like it anymore so that could be down to not fitting or being flimsy or out of shape or... something like that I think.

Erm and then how often have you been getting rid of things?

Erm I tend to have a cull every so often so probably every six months or maybe less I don't know I try to get rid of things if I'm pulling out something to get rid off I'll naturally go ok let me have a quick look and see if there's anything else I just want to get rid of as well cause I'll try and get rid of things to charity shops its very rare for me to actually put something into the bin.

Erm and then do you think for you most of the issues are something to do with space that you...

Yer probably to do with space and also there's something's that I've just had now that probably like I duno like a t-shirt from the gap or something like that that I've had for more than 8 or 9 years that's pretty misshapen and probably shouldn't be worn out of the house because it doesn't look cool. Erm things like that I probably have a word with myself and say ok its probably time to get rid of this now.

And then I suppose another thing is when you have an event or something happens.

Yep uhuh.

And then how confident do you feel with sewing after participating in the workshops. If we do a rating scale of one to five again.

Er... I'm probably well I'd say halfway between well two or do you want me to say...

Say what ever you want.

Well half way between three and four.

Three and four.

Or do I have to give a number?

Three and a half

Yep.

Erm and then just going through all of the different types of mending. Are you confident to darn?

Yep.

Shortening something?

Erm... probably not because I didn't practice that skill.

Erm lengthening?

No.

Patching?

Yep.

And slight alterations in size?

Er probably not no.

Erm invisible mending?

Erm I'm not sure.

I don't think we really covered that. Erm repairing tears?

Yep.

Erm re-seaming broken stitch work?

Yes.

Customising?

Yes.

Erm re-sewing buttons on?

Yep.

Major alterations?

Probably not.

And anything else?

I'm trying to think felting? Wool repair? I don't know...

Ok and then erm I was just going to go over the garments that we looked at I suppose in the initial interview erm... so I suppose to find out if they are still your favourite garments or if anything's changed and, and how you feel about them. I've basically just printed out very, very tiny pictures of the garments that you showed me. Erm so your favourite garments I think there were little leather jacket.

Leather jacket.

Pair of denim trousers. And is that a dress?

Yup that's a dress...

Erm, well whether you've got any others that you think are?

Yer well yer probably still the same definitely the leather jacket. I haven't put the jeans on since I've had the baby yet. Cause they're reasonably tight skinny jeans cause I had the operation [caesarean section], I've got some soreness so I don't really want to have it interfered with by these jeans so I'm tending to wear things with like higher waists or erm a lot of leggings and things like that cause they are just very comfortable with a baby so I guess my favourite garment at the moment would be a pair of leggings as well. Some plainish stretchy leggings.

And then are these ones that you probably had/ bought quite recently would you say your leggings?

Yer they would have been purchased when I was pregnant I think.

So what maybe six months ago or?

Hem where are we June... probably bought them March or April. Probably yer two or three months ago.

And then what you mentioned from H&M or...

Yer they were I think.

And you just wear them all of the time do you?

Yer a lot of the time yer.

So for your favourite garments do you think that it's more comfort rather than anything else but that's quite smart...

Yer, yer, that's the dress that I'd wear for a really nice night out for a meal or to a wedding or something like that, special occasions. So I guess I'd probably still wear it the same amount that I used to wear it, it is quite fitted though... hum and I don't know whether I would fit in it now. I probably would actually fit in it I mean I would still try and want to wear it... it's a lovely dress I still want to wear it.

And then your jeans, just hopefully you will soon, once you've fully recovered.

Yer absolutely I'll be back in those jeans. I hope.

Cause how much longer did the doctors say it would take.

They say it's like six weeks. Its actually six weeks today that I actually had the baby they say your not allowed to lift shopping bags or drive a car and exert yourself too much for those six weeks and then after that you can start to kind of

Do a bit more...

Get back into it a bit. Er its still painful though it still feels like its healing so...

But are you allowed to push the pram and things?

Yer I think that's ok. Your just not supposed to... you can walk a mile but your not supposed to walk six miles sort of thing. Cause everything's still moving around. Because they cut through so many layers. There's lots of layers over your tummy that need to heal up inside. I wouldn't recommend it. It does sound like the easy option doesn't it the C-section doesn't it but recovery's rubbish. Because I was a very active independent

person and now its reduced me to a bit of a weak sort of oh I'm in pain sort of... can't get my favourite jeans on. Sort of thing.

But I suppose its just a roll of the dice isn't it as to whether the baby's playing ball or not?

Yer exactly.

Erm sorry diverging... garments that you never wear but keep.

Hang on to. What was that then?

Think you've just got an old t-shirt and then I don't know what those black trousers were?

Or something.

And a couple of dresses well a cardigan...

Is that a cardigan? Is that black and silver maybe that cardigan?

Yer I think and was it shiny, oh I can't remember?

Yer I think it was shiny. Erm... so what's the question about these ones? I think I may have got rid of all of those garments now actually.

You think you've got rid of them?

Yer they probably would have been top of the list.

Okay.

For space to free up space.

Cool and then do you have any other garments that you never wear but keep for...

Hummm...

Any other reason?

Erm I was looking at this grey cardigan here the other day that's got sequins on the sleeves because I really like that I picked it up on a swish. Do you know what that is [nod] so I picked it up at a swish and I've had it for about three years I wore it a lot I did wear it a lot and out and about and stuff but now I think I don't know if I'd ever really wear it while he was little because you are always picking a baby up on your arms...

Oh so just...

Or feeding them on your arms and sliding him around to turn him...

So a bit worried about scratching.

Scratch him so it's making me think so when would I ever wear it but I still like it so I'd probably hang on to it. [husband leaves]

Erm when you go out on a girl's night... or you go on a date night.

Yer, with my orange dress. My favourite dress. Yer that's when I'll wear it.

Have to make a point of dressing up?

Yer.

I might just take a picture of that if that's ok.

Yer grab it.

He's been really good [referring to baby].

What the baby, oh yer, they don't do a lot. At this stage.

Yer I need to go and see my friend's little baby in Cambridge. She will be two weeks old now.

Yer that's it there.

But erm... always difficult to know what's the best time to go. Because we are actually fully booked now for weekends for...

Wedding season isn't it.

Wedding season and just hen parties...

Yer.

And all sorts of things. So this must be an old Whistles this is before they went very plain and got rid of all of their embellishments. So you've said that you've had it what about three years...

Yer I think so.

Erm and then garments that you wear all of the time...

All of the time yer.

So there was that dress?

Dress yes.

Erm a black skirt?

Black skirt.

And a black jacket?

Oh yer I know the one you mean. Well yer they were all kind of worky clothes actually all of those three items the jacket at the bottom I could wear but I haven't because it looks like a suit jacket a little bit and I've not been smart casual yet. Having had the baby I've always just been casual, casual so I haven't worn that I've just opted for a normal cardigan. Rather than a cotton stretchy jacket.

So I suppose your... The garments that you are wearing all of the time are going to change because your role has changed or...

Yer I think so yer more for comfort really.

So what do you think? What would you say you wore all of the time?

Erm what do I wear all of the time? The leggings, erm the black and white leggings. I've sent you a picture of them you've got a picture of them. Yer I've been wearing them a lot. Quick to throw on and have a bit of not colour but something interesting going on erm... vests as well always got a vest on. So I've invested in a few more vests.

And then these things are a few months old aren't they, they're relatively new.

Yer quite new.

Erm garments that you've had the longest... so it was a... Is that just a little tank top?

Yer. That's a little vest and that's a jacket. And that's a jacket yer. Erm yep I've still got both of them still wear the vest and have worn the jacket recently. The jacket is kind of, erm... I don't know if I talked about this before but the jackets a slightly strange one because there's never quite the season to wear it in because its quite a long raincoat jacket but its not waterproof. It has to be spring like but not cold and not hot because obviously you wouldn't wear a long jacket in the heat. So its...

Very particular.

And you can't fit jumpers under it because it's a reasonably fitted jacket. So there's only the odd time where it's oh, I can wear this jacket today so...

He's waking up.

Hi ya are you waking up? Having wind.

Erm newest garments, the newest garments have changed. It's the ones that we have been talking about the leggings and the vest because before it was

The bra.

Your first maternity bra.

And that yer so the newest ones are probably like the vests that I've brought. Erm he's trying to do a poo or a fart and it makes him cry. He's all right.

So you can't really do anything until its all over.

Erm yer... its best just to let him do this for a couple of minutes and then if he gets upset I can comfort him because sometimes he will do this and then like a second later he's asleep again so...you can hear him going kind of... but apparently they can't, their but hole doesn't have good control so they can't just do a fart like you or I would so for them they are like.

Oh so its really uncomfortably.

And all of the signals that they feel when they are little all feel the same and its all a little bit translated as pain. So if it's like a cut or a fart its like the same thing to them so they are like rarrrrgh. [laughing] he looks upset but he's probably not actually in any pain.

Just a little bit uncomfortable.

Yes. I just try and give him a little bit of encouragement...

You cant really I suppose pat them on the back its not going to help is it.

No. I think you can grab their legs and lift them up a bit like a yoga thing and it can help.

I, I don't know which one is the best to show you but they are just M&S cotton vests. And they sneeze when they cry. That's normal.

Did you have to get that rocking chair when you had him.

This was a present from [husband] actually as a surprise when we got back from hospital and we saw this rocking chair and they sell it in Heals new ones and they are really expensive. They are like 500 quid or something and erm they made them in the 70's and you can pick them really cheap and he found one so it's why it's got the little ribbons on it so you can rock the baby. Crack on ignore the child.

Okay.

Or I could feed him is you don't mind me going that. While we talk.

No I don't mind at all. What ever's easiest for you guys. That must be nice not having to do a lot of the housework.

Yer its brilliant. Okay.

Cool erm any garments that have had repairs alterations or customisations made to them. I suppose the only one would that just be the t-shirt.

Erm yer and I did sew a hole in a cardigan that a friend gave me erm... yer it was a black probably a cotton cardigan.

And had you been wearing that one quite a bit.

Er... I just wore it a few times really.

Ok, and then the next one. Garments that need maintenance or alteration. You had that dress and we talked about two others. Oh, I can't remember what they were. I didn't have any images for them.

Is the green dress one of them?

Yes.

Erm...

Green floral a bit 70's.

Yer I think that I might have got rid of that now actually. Oh no did I, I think I went to get rid of it and then I went no I like it erm

It got a retrieve or a reprieve?

Yer.

And then any garments that you were going to dispose of I think there were some trousers. Big wide jeans?

Big wide jeans yes I think I have got rid of those. I think both of those garments I've got rid of.

Because they were too big for you?

Hum.

And then I think we have already been talking about this a bit anyway. Erm cause do you think that your... we did a bit of a wardrobe count last time when I came round do you think anything's changed dramatically since?

Erm... if anything probably just less slightly less items that I've pulled out some older bits and pieces I'll get rid of, probably mainly things like t-shirts and things like that I think.

And then you mentioned that erm you'd got your clothes out of storage was that basically one huge bin bag?

One huge bin bag yer.

And then I suppose when you've finished with your maternity clothes would you then give them back to your friend.

Yer I need to check with her because I'm either going to give them back to her if she wants them back or I'm going to give them to a swishing event or something like that because I think there's a lot of those that go on. Baby clothes and maternity clothes.

Cool so thank you very much and then I suppose just a couple of final questions is there anything else that you want to add firstly?

Erm, no just thank you for teaching me those skills and running the workshops

No it's a pleasure.

And everything yep.

And then do you think anything's changed from today's discussion about your clothes? Or?

Erm yer it's made me realise I think a bit differently about clothes now. And this new role, new job it's like erm... like the garments that I used to wear all of the time like that patterned dress I've still got that up there but I can't wear that because I can't lift the whole dress to breastfeed and I can't drop it from the top so when am I ever going to wear that? Not in the next year basically unless like you said I go out with out the baby. Erm so yer.

So yer I suppose your looking at different practicalities.

I'm looking at practicality yer.

Erm and then you said... is that what you mean about what you said thinking differently about clothes.

Um I think what will probably happen I'll probably end up wearing the same small selection of clothes again and again and again rather than having a wide collection of clothes and wearing them as well. I was also thinking about the fact that when I after a year when I go back to work or something like that I will have hung on to all of these dresses but I'll probably look at them and think I haven't worn these for a year I was wearing these before I went on maternity do I want to go back to work in the same old things again. I don't know I imagine hats how I'll feel I'll probably hang on to these but then ultimately I don't know if I'd wear them in the end.

Yer it's difficult. Cool.

I've had a lot of those for a long time anyway.

So cool.

Yer.

Thank you very much.

8.2.13 Wrapup Interviews

Interview questions:

- ⟨ Are you still mending 5 years on?
- ⟨ Please expand on this, give some examples. So: what are you doing in terms of mending clothes or how are you making them last for longer and why? (e.g. Types of mending, which garments? Does it tend to be particular garments with certain characteristics? What are these?)
- ⟨ Do they tend to be invisible (not seen when finished) or visible mends?
- ⟨ What did you find most useful from the workshops?
- ⟨ And finally do you think your attitudes towards clothing/ clothing habits (acquisition, use, store and disposal) have changed?
- ⟨ And how have they changed/ stayed the same?

8.2.13.1 Alice outtake interview – via email

Sorry, I'm useless! I've dropped the ball a bit re comms as I've just returned to work in the UK and it's proving a bit of a logistical headache. Never mind, I'm sure it will settle.

Right, in answer to your qns:

Are you still mending 5 years on?

- yes, still mending 5 years on

Please expand on this, give some examples. So: what are you doing in terms of mending clothes or how are you making them last for longer and why? (e.g. Types of mending, which garments? Does it tend to be particular garments with certain characteristics? What are these?)

- it tends to be relatively easy mends such as socks, ripped knees in trousers (mostly kids as they aren't so fussy with how perfect the repair job is) or the seat of my husband's suits (they're rather old!).

Do they tend to be invisible (not seen when finished) or visible mends?

- they are mainly visible though I try my best to make them invisible when we're talking my husband's suits!

What did you find most useful from the workshops?

- the workshops demystified mending so it seems less daunting than I would have thought before. It's shifted my attitude that items I might've abandoned before are salvageable.

And finally do you think your attitudes towards clothing/ clothing habits (acquisition, use, store and disposal) have changed?

- my spending habits have changed slightly. I still enjoy shopping for clothes, and I've had the need to moving to the equator and back. Though I'm more likely to think twice before a purchase about what in my wardrobe suits that purpose and if it can be altered or mended accordingly to negate buying new.

Hope that helps. Let me know if I can clarify or expand on anything. And well done for wrapping up the PhD, exciting times!

8.2.13.2 Lucy Out take interview – via email

Sent: 10 November 2018 17:33

To: Emily Towers

Subject: Hello

Hi Emily,

Here are some photos of the cardigan which was plain. I French Knotted the collar.

First time I have done this and I would know how to be neater and hide the thread on the reverse next time but it I am still very pleased to have saved my Mother-in-laws cardigan.

My next door neighbours mother donated the vintage buttons to replace the original plain buttons, and they also make the cardigan more colourful and personalised.

So, the questions:

Yes, I am still mending 5 years on.

I bought a beautiful second hand cotton kimono from a thrift shop (probably from Hawaii in the 60's) and took up the hem to make it wearable.

I made waist tabs and a belt from the cut off as it had lost its original tie. (I can send a photo if you would like one).

Someone was throwing out a half made African costume which I salvaged from them and modified to make a lovely simple dropped waist cotton summer dress.

I can send a photo if you would like one.

I have some small scraps which were lying around and am almost finished making them into a beautiful colourful scarf (I can send a photo if you would like).

I have made lavender bags last month from scraps of muslin and material to keep moths off my clothes and make them last longer (I can photo).

I look at everything now to see how I can mend, customise, modernise or re-use and love that satisfaction and continuity and personalisation.

My next project is to take up some trousers and some jeans that I am attached to but are not quite right and I have been treading annoyingly on the hem.

Some garments I just feel have history and I don't want to lose them (like my Mother-in-laws cardigan or a jumper that I have worn forever and it is like an old well-fitting friend.

Other garments I like the promise they hold of being plain and susceptible to a little bit of rejuvenating to bring them back to good life and be a bit individual.

I do like vintage anyway – whether it is books or jewellery or sheets etc.

I do like the idea of visible mends. I dress casually anyway so they take on visible repairs without looking wrong. I like the idea of contrast colour felting a hole in my sweater etc.

That would be more difficult with a sophisticated and expensive wardrobe where it would be better to hide the repair. I do have a long Monsoon (now vintage) dress that has a high heel spike ripped through the hem and would need to invisible repair that as it would look odd otherwise. I will do that one day and have saved the dress but I have no urgent need for it right now. I do love the dress and want to keep it as it is a little bit of my particular history of where I have worn it, and of its time.

I found the workshop useful because it was hands on so even the beginners like me could gain confidence by seeing that they actually can do sewing!

The workshops were small so we could get help with techniques that we were not familiar with.

You were a great, enthusiastic, supportive teacher and it was a fantastic conducive environment.

I really liked the felting because I like my old woollens and they now have extended lives.

I enjoyed the embroidery/darning techniques because it engaged my imagination about what and how I could work on a garment or embellish a garment to make it wearable rather than throw it because it is too out of date.

I think I buy less new garments because I can repair or alter my clothes not only to extend them (important obviously) but also I feel more connected and bonded with something I have worked on and therefore increased my attachment.

I use my garments more readily because I know that I can repair and alter more confidently now so I don't feel that it matters so much if something gets torn or gets a hole etc.

I store things more carefully now because I realise the damage moths have done in the past. I brought in a sweater to the workshop for felting for instance!

I have paradoxically taken things out that I haven't worn and worked on them to make them wearable (such as the kimono and the African costume passed on to me).

I am less likely to dispose of clothing readily now. I will look at something if it is an item I have always really liked to see if I can do something to salvage it.

If not, I will make something from it sometimes (like the lavender bags or the scarf I am working on).

I have always liked it when other people had clothing that was special because of its age or it being from a parent or because they had done something to it that was nice and now I feel that I have that ability and that mind set to also be more individual, more sustainable, have a positive relationship with some special clothes, buy less new clothes and be more ethical as a result and feel good about at least some of my wardrobe.

I still buy new clothes too – either for a special occasion. My outfit for my goddaughters wedding in her colours for instance, or a gorgeous cotton summer dress going for a song in a Sardinian market, etc but with more of a balance.

Lastly, I really loved the workshop and thought that you were very gently inspiring without putting any pressure or weight of expectation on any of us.

It was great fun and I would never have learned about those techniques without your input.

I had never darned, felted, put in a zip or even threaded a machine!

I'm still not accomplished but I am in the fray and doing things that I enjoy as a result that achieve a result that gives me great satisfaction and a different relationship to my wardrobe and reduced the desire to acquire new things without thinking.

Please do call me if it would help to actually talk about any of this. Or I can call you. Or you may feel the above is enough...

Very best,

8.2.13.3 Interview transcript: outtake interview no: 1

Participant: Bea (7)

Telephone conversation recorded.

8 minutes 32 seconds

November the 8th 2018

1:30 pm

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 7: Bea

Bea: Hello,

Emily: Hello (Bea).

Bea: Hello.

Emily: Hi (Bea) it's Emily, Emily Towers here about the mending workshops that we did years ago.

Bea: Hello how are you?

Emily: Is it a good time to talk to you at the moment?

Yer it is yer

Yeah. Yeah because I know how difficult it is to work out a good time to speak when you've got little people around you.

- Bea: Yes, yes let's give it a go we will be eating lunch in a minute. So we will see how it goes.
- Emily: Oh okay. So, how are you? Are you still based in Kings Cross? In Islington
- Bea: Yes, near the same place I think as I was with you last time. So we are still sort of between Highbury and Old Street sort of area.
- Emily: Cool, and your eldest was he called ...(...)
- Bea: Yes, he's called (...) so he's 4 years old he's in school now.
- Emily: Wow,
- Bea: And the other one (...) he's one year old.
- Emily: Oh, lovely congratulations. Right. I'll get going so that we don't spend too much time...
- Bea: When did you move down to... are you in Bristol or something?
- Emily: Yeah well my husband, his offices, well the London offices closed. So we moved down near to Gloucester, about two years ago now,
- Bea: How is it down there?
- Emily: Well we've been wanting to leave London for years and years and years and it was the push that we needed. We've just, we've got a much bigger place we could have only lived in, afforded a flat really in London and so we've now got a house and we've got a garden. So, the second one is just loving being able to run around in a garden which the first one never did, because we had her in London. So it's just the difference as she now cycles everywhere which I don't think I would let her do that in London. Not in Finsbury Park!
- Bea: Argh lovely, lovely.
- Emily: Anyway I will get going so that I don't waste too much time. So are you still mending five years on?
- Bea: Erm... am I? I'd say that the inclination is there, but whether I actually do any of it. Probably rarely. I'd say that I've actually taken things up to be mended actually. to a shop locally. Just cause I've had a small baby so for example when I've got like a hole in the crotch of my jeans which just needed sewing up. So instead of me sort of tackling it I've just taken it up to the nice lady up there who does it for me there for seven pounds
- Emily: Er... that's brilliant. And erm I suppose the next question is just to expand on it. So just to give examples. The reasons for why you are mending the jeans as opposed to other garments or...
- Bea: Yeah I try to keep an item of clothing for as long as possible. I've only got a couple of pairs of jeans. So if I can repair the ones I've got and keep them going for longer then they will sort of last a bit more, before having to get a new pair... erm... sort of ecologically as well its sort of nice if they are cotton. Even when they do wear out they can go... back in to the bin or recycling you know wherever. Erm... yep and then like children's clothes and jumpers and things like that as well I sort of try and keep them going for as long as possible.
- Emily: And you were saying that you haven't really done much recently is it purely because you've had a second child. Do you think just not having any free time is what is affecting it or...

- Bea: I'd say that was the main thing probably yeah because I'd I have to find out where all my sewing kit and bits and bobs are erm so I'd need time for that and then I'd need time to actually sit and do it. And I've just gone back to work and stuff as well so like it's just.... Hectic, Crazy race from Monday to Wednesday. So then on my sort of days off my priorities are for things like picking up parcels or... stuff like that rather than mending things. But written down on my to do list there's things like you know mending, yes things like that...
- Emily: So do you envisage when things settle down and your second is a bit older. Do you envisage that you might go back to doing a bit more?
- Bea: Oh yeah definitely, definitely.
- Emily: Okay and then when you when you do turn, when you do, do mending does it tend to be invisible so you don't see it when it's finished. Or do you do visible mends and this includes when you go and have your jeans done for example by a Tailor.
- Bea: Erm... well probably things that I have done or got done are probably invisible ones but I am inclined towards visible ones. So I've got like a little hole in one of the older boys trousers and they are about Of the waist (grown out of them) so they'd sort of carry on for the baby when he's old enough to fit them so I am thinking to maybe patch them with a patch like maybe cut an old t-shirt with a picture and put that on it.. or sort of interesting patch or coloured thread or... yer keep it more interesting.
- Emily: okay erm and then just if you can try and remember... what did you find most useful from the workshops that we did. Such a long time ago...
- Bea: I think, the things I mainly remember the sort of felting for fixing holes in jumpers and things like that and I also remember, I think it was a Japanese technique I don't remember the name of it but it was just sewing across using those threads.
- Emily: Okay and then erm...Do you think that your attitudes towards clothing or clothing habits have changed over this time. So suppose, your buying new, storage and disposal habits do you think they've changed or stayed the same?
- Bea: Erm... they're pretty much the same I've got a few more hand knitted jumpers erm not really ... things like hoodies and things more like, I just ask my mum to knit me a nice jumper and maybe buy her the pattern and wool and stuff so that I can get something a bit more individual. we have a few moths in London. We've been making efforts to try and bag stuff up better, as the seasons change. So that we are not going to have to repair everything with moth holes in it.
- Emily: Ok brilliant and yeah. So you've explained why they've stayed the same. That's basically it unless you've got anything else to add really. It's just a very quick touching base and seeing if you are still mending really after all this time and whether the workshops were useful.
- Bea: Yeah it definitely was it really definitely was. And I do still mean to get a sewing machine. We will at some point I think we are just trying, we are doing our house like a small London flat to try and free up space for all the normal stuff let alone buying new stuff that would need storing as well. so we will reach a point where we will get one I think as my husband can sew as well he's made himself

costumes and things like that so he's got a few talents. So, he would definitely be able to use a sewing machine at some point.

Emily: Okay brilliant. Cool, Thank you. Thank you so much for your time and good luck with everything and I hope I hope going back to work is this is enjoyable and you get some headspace.

Bea: Thank you very much. Lovely to hear from you.

Emily: Take care thank you very much (Bea) good bye.

8.2.13.4 Interview transcript: outtake interview no: 4

Participant: Sonya

Telephone conversation recorded.

5 minutes 43 seconds

December the 5th 2018

8pm

Interviewer: Emily Towers

Interviewee: participant 1

No I was just trying to set everything up. How are you doing?

Yer yer very well thank you. Sounds like a lot's happened in your life since we last spoke.

Yes it's been a bit manic really how about you guys? How've you been?

Yer really good. I've actually I've been living aboard in fact. I went to do a ski season

Amazing.

Yer yer in Austria, so yer quite a change. I'm back now but that was fun. I packed quite a lot in as well.

Wow I've always wanted to do something like that.

Oh it was brilliant, one turned into three so yer it was a lot of fun. Reliving my youth, I think (laughing).

Sorry I haven't got back to you, I just haven't had a minute and I kept thinking id send it over on email and I thought do you know what it's just as easy for me to chat through the answers with you.

Well exactly, I'm just going to run and get myself a pen as I don't seem to have one to hand.

Yer no worries.

Of all the places, I'm sat down at my computer and I don't have one with me. Right, here you go.... Right. Cool thank you. So ok, so the first one was... are you still mending five yours on?

Am I still erm... mending? Yer it's a big yes I think this rolls into the second question the biggest thing is the invisible hems, so yer that was the best thing that I learnt, so yer definitely I do.

Ok brilliant and then, yes just to give examples...

Invisible hems the biggest one.

The biggest one...

And I've taught other people. I've taught my mum an invisible hem.

Brilliant.

Because she's vertically challenged like me so yer I'm definitely more I'd say because I'm generally more confident and I'll go and I'll buy that and I'm not sure of the cuff on the sleeves, I'll like take the sleeves up and I'll definitely like erm... what's the word when you make it your own? What's the word?

Customise?

Customise! Yer I definitely will customise little bits and pieces.

Ok brilliant. Erm... so, yer, it's basically cutting things and making them fit really that's what you have been doing more than anything else.

Yer that is the main thing. Yer. But where I wouldn't have necessarily, say something didn't fit me or you know I didn't quite like the length of the arm I just wouldn't buy it. I mean I know it's all about look I mean changing things that you have already got but actually I have done that to things that I have got. I've definitely repaired things like again if a hems coming down or erm you know I've definitely yer I've definitely repaired things as well.

Ok brilliant erm... I suppose do they tend to be invisible? So they are not seen when they are finished? Or do you make a big thing of them?...

I suppose. Erm its more invisible but erm.. I have repaired, well partly as well because I went and did ski seasons and of course my income changed, I haven't been buying clothes in the same way anyway.

Yer.

So then I've definitely been making what I have got, last, so that's fine if I just do this to it so I. I will I've definitely sort of I will sewn up holes and things.

Yes. Erm... brilliant. And then what was. What did you find was the most useful thing from the workshops that you did?

Invisible hems. Laughing, I'm not very interesting am I!

And then basically (Sonya) did you think that your attitudes towards clothing or clothing habits have changed? Erm..

Yer go on...

Sorry you were going to say something...

I think that they have again I don't know if that's... influenced by other things i.e. my income...

Yer change of circumstances

Or the world around me ... yer erm... so I think it has but I don't know if I could contribute it directly to the sewing. It is partly definitely. But other things will have impacted on that too.

Ok. And erm I think that you've touched on it, that you haven't been buying as much, are there any other things that you think have changed or stayed the same?

Erm.. I think... yer I don't think I've been buying as much then I definitely do care more for the pieces that I have spent money on. Erm... I'm probably less flippant.

Ok, ok brilliant thank you.

Is that helpful, good luck.

8.3 Mending Survey

8.3.1 Questions

mending clothing: the everyday practices surrounding the repair and renewal of our clothes

Start of Block: opening questions

Q1 *Are you 16 or over?*

☐ yes (1)

☐ no (2)

Skip To: End of Block If Are you 16 or over? = no

Q2 *Are you male or female?*

Tick the appropriate response

☐ male (1)

☐ female (2)

Page Break

Q33 We care about the quality of our data. In order for us to get the most accurate measures of your opinions, it is important that you thoughtfully provide your best answers to each question in this survey.

Page Break

Q3 *Who mends your clothes?*

Tick as many as are appropriate.

☐

yourself (1)

☐

member of your family (2)

☐

dry cleaner (3)

☐

friend (5)

☐

local tailor (6)

☐

repair shop (7)

☐

no one/ never (8)

☐

other. Please describe... (4) _____

Q4 *Do you ever personally mend your clothes and/ or those of family members?*

Tick the most appropriate box

- ☐ I only mend my own clothes (2)
- ☐ I mend my clothes and my families (1)
- ☐ I only mend my families clothes (3)
- ☐ no I don't mend clothes (4)

Page Break

Q5 *What kind of mending can you do? And how often do you do it?*

Tick the appropriate boxes

	can (1)	never (2)	very rarely (in the last 5 years) (3)	rarely (approx. once a year) (4)	occasionally (approx. twice a year) (5)	regularly (approx. every couple of months) (6)	constantly (approx. more than once a month) (7)
re-sewing buttons (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
repairing tears (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
darning (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
patching (4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
re-seaming broken stitch work (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
invisible mending (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
customising (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

others,
please
describe...
(12)



Page Break

End of Block: opening questions




Start of Block: Mending Mandy

Page Break

Q6 *Mending and your wardrobe*

Use the sliding scale to position the bar.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

give an estimate of what percentage of your wardrobe has been mended (1)	
give an estimate of what percentage of your wardrobe you would mend (2)	
give an estimate of how many garments you have that have been repeatedly mended. (3)	



Q7 *Do the following affect whether you would mend your clothes?*

Drag the relevant statements into the corresponding boxes, then rank them in order of importance with the most important at the top.

very likely to mend	very unlikely to mend
_____ somewhere comfortable to sew (2)	_____ somewhere comfortable to sew (2)
_____ being in the right frame of mind (3)	_____ being in the right frame of mind (3)
_____ lack of free time (4)	_____ lack of free time (4)
_____ have available materials (7)	_____ have available materials (7)
_____ sewing ability and knowledge of mending skills (10)	_____ sewing ability and knowledge of mending skills (10)
_____ confidence in mending ability (11)	_____ confidence in mending ability (11)
_____ access to mending / sewing tutorials, workshops or informal mending get together like stitch and bitch (13)	_____ access to mending / sewing tutorials, workshops or informal mending get together like stitch and bitch (13)
_____ necessity (9)	_____ necessity (9)
_____ hassle to replace (20)	_____ hassle to replace (20)
_____ habit (21)	_____ habit (21)
_____ my upbringing (17)	_____ my upbringing (17)
_____ societal pressures (18)	_____ societal pressures (18)
_____ environmental concerns (19)	_____ environmental concerns (19)

_____ other please describe (22)

_____ other please describe (23)

_____ comments (24)

_____ other please describe (22)

_____ other please describe (23)

_____ comments (24)

Page Break

Q8 *In order for you to be prepared to mend a garment what characteristics should it have?*

Use the scale to mark the importance of each characteristic in relation to the other.

	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 (5)	6 (6)	7 (7)	
good quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	poor quality
worn regularly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	hardly worn
large amount of wearable clothes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	few wearable clothes
expensive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	cheap
affection towards garment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	ambivalence
desire to keep in use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	no desire to wear
gift/ hand me down from family or friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	acquired myself
easy to replace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	difficult / hassle to replace

classic
garment/
timeless



(fashion)
trend-led
garment

old
faithful



new

durable/
hard
wearing
e.g. denim



delicate e.g.
special
occasion
piece/ party
wear

cost to
repair



cost to
replace

have
similar
items in
wardrobe



no
replacement
in wardrobe

Q9 *Does mending a garment change the way you use a piece of clothing?*

Use the scale to mark the importance of each statement in relation to the other.

	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 (5)	6 (6)	7 (7)	
stopped wearing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	wear all of the time
gone up in status (e.g. from gardening to everyday wear)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	dropped in status (e.g. from work to home wear)
increased affection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	decreased affection
extends the period of use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	decreases the period of use
prevents replacement purchase	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	encourages replacement purchases
reduces the amount of clothes purchased	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	increases the amount of clothes purchased
creates and cements a bond	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	destroys the bond with a garment
more likely to mend it again	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	unlikely to mend it again

not smart
enough to
be worn in
public
anymore
(consigned
to home
use)



back to
wearing in
public










Q10 *How do you feel about things you have mended?*

Use the sliding scale to mark the importance of each statement.

strong positive

no change

strong negative

I feel a sense of fulfillment/ satisfying ()	
I feel that a personal touch has been added to make them mine ()	
I feel it is a way of caring for my clothes ()	
I feel they are successful ()	
I feel it is necessary ()	
I feel happy with the quality of workmanship ()	
I feel it's not a long term solution ()	
other, please describe ()	
other please describe ()	

Q11 *How accurate are the following statements in terms of your view of mended clothes?*

Use the scale to mark how much you agree with each statement.

	Strongly agree (7)	Agree (8)	Somewhat agree (9)	Neither agree nor disagree (10)	Somewhat disagree (11)	Disagree (12)	Strongly disagree (13)
they look scruffy (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
they are alternative/ have a hippy look (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
they are more individual (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
if its done well you can't see the repair (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
it means that you can't afford to buy new clothes (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
its better for the environment (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

this is an
attention
filter. please
select
'strongly
disagree' for
this
statement
(12)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

it's too
much like
hard work
(7)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

I can enjoy
them for
longer (9)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

other please
describe (8)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

other please
describe (11)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

Skip To: End of Block If How accurate are the following statements in terms of your view of mended clothes? Use the scale... !=

Page Break



Q12 *What does mending mean to you?*

Drag the relevant statements into the corresponding boxes, then rank them in order of importance with the most important at the top.

strongly Agree	agree	disagree	strongly Disagree
_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)	_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)	_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)	_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)
_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)	_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)	_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)	_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)
_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)	_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)	_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)	_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)
_____ it is part of my day to day ritual in maintaining my wardrobe (4)	_____ it is part of my day to day ritual in maintaining my wardrobe (4)	_____ it is part of my day to day ritual in maintaining my wardrobe (4)	_____ it is part of my day to day ritual in maintaining my wardrobe (4)
_____ it is something fun to do (6)	_____ it is something fun to do (6)	_____ it is something fun to do (6)	_____ it is something fun to do (6)
_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)	_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)	_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)	_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)
_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)	_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)	_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)	_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)

_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)	_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)	_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)	_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)
_____ it is a means to an end (10)	_____ it is a means to an end (10)	_____ it is a means to an end (10)	_____ it is a means to an end (10)
_____ not a long term solution (13)	_____ not a long term solution (13)	_____ not a long term solution (13)	_____ not a long term solution (13)
_____ a way of being frugal (14)	_____ a way of being frugal (14)	_____ a way of being frugal (14)	_____ a way of being frugal (14)
_____ it's a challenge (15)	_____ it's a challenge (15)	_____ it's a challenge (15)	_____ it's a challenge (15)
_____ it's a last resort (19)	_____ it's a last resort (19)	_____ it's a last resort (19)	_____ it's a last resort (19)
_____ it's an investment (20)	_____ it's an investment (20)	_____ it's an investment (20)	_____ it's an investment (20)
_____ it is something that a member of my family did and has been passed on (21)	_____ it is something that a member of my family did and has been passed on (21)	_____ it is something that a member of my family did and has been passed on (21)	_____ it is something that a member of my family did and has been passed on (21)
_____ other please describe... (22)	_____ other please describe... (22)	_____ other please describe... (22)	_____ other please describe... (22)
_____ other please describe... (23)	_____ other please describe... (23)	_____ other please describe... (23)	_____ other please describe... (23)
_____ comments (24)	_____ comments (24)	_____ comments (24)	_____ comments (24)

Q13 ***Do your clothes last as long as you want them to?***

☐ yes (1)

☐ no (2)

Q14 ***Why is this?***

Please type your answer in the box below.

Q15 ***Do you have any further comments that you would like to add regarding your experience of mending?***

Please type your answer in the box below.

Skip To: End of Block If Do you have any further comments that you would like to add regarding your experience of mending?... Is Empty

Skip To: End of Block If Do you have any further comments that you would like to add regarding your experience of mending?... Is Not Empty

End of Block: Mending Mandy

Start of Block: Non-mending Jane



Q24 *Why don't you mend anything?*

Drag the relevant statements into the corresponding boxes, then rank them in order of importance with the most important at the top.

significant	insignificant
_____ storage Space (1)	_____ storage Space (1)
_____ lack of free time (2)	_____ lack of free time (2)
_____ lack of materials for mending (4)	_____ lack of materials for mending (4)
_____ not necessary (5)	_____ not necessary (5)
_____ sewing ability (6)	_____ sewing ability (6)
_____ not confident in mending ability (7)	_____ not confident in mending ability (7)
_____ lack of knowledge of mending skills (8)	_____ lack of knowledge of mending skills (8)
_____ no access to mending / sewing tutorials (9)	_____ no access to mending / sewing tutorials (9)
_____ lack of motivation/ can't be bothered (10)	_____ lack of motivation/ can't be bothered (10)
_____ patience (11)	_____ patience (11)
_____ my upbringing (13)	_____ my upbringing (13)
_____ societal pressures (14)	_____ societal pressures (14)
_____ environmental concerns (15)	_____ environmental concerns (15)

_____ don't like the look of home mended
clothes (17)

_____ quicker to buy replacements (18)

_____ cheaper to buy replacements (19)

_____ quality of garments not good enough (20)

_____ never thought about it (25)

_____ don't know how to approach it (26)

_____ can't compete with professionally made
garments (28)

_____ other please describe (29)

_____ other please describe (30)

_____ comments (31)

_____ don't like the look of home mended
clothes (17)

_____ quicker to buy replacements (18)

_____ cheaper to buy replacements (19)

_____ quality of garments not good enough (20)

_____ never thought about it (25)

_____ don't know how to approach it (26)

_____ can't compete with professionally made
garments (28)

_____ other please describe (29)

_____ other please describe (30)

_____ comments (31)



Q25 *What would encourage you to mend a piece of clothing?*

Drag the relevant statements into the corresponding boxes, then rank them in order of importance with the most important at the top.

very unlikely to mend	very likely to mend
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ a good quality garment (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ a good quality garment (1)
_____ something worn regularly (2)	_____ something worn regularly (2)
_____ having a small amount of wearable clothes (3)	_____ having a small amount of wearable clothes (3)
_____ an expensive garment (4)	_____ an expensive garment (4)
_____ affection towards a garment (5)	_____ affection towards a garment (5)
_____ a gift/ hand me down from family or friends (6)	_____ a gift/ hand me down from family or friends (6)
_____ a trend-led garment (fashion) (7)	_____ a trend-led garment (fashion) (7)
_____ something that is easy to replace (8)	_____ something that is easy to replace (8)
_____ a classic garment (9)	_____ a classic garment (9)
_____ the desire to keep the garment in use (10)	_____ the desire to keep the garment in use (10)
_____ durable/ hard wearing garment e.g. denim (13)	_____ durable/ hard wearing garment e.g. denim (13)
_____ the cost of replacement (14)	_____ the cost of replacement (14)
_____ having no replacement in wardrobe (15)	_____ having no replacement in wardrobe (15)

_____ other please describe... (12)

_____ other please describe (17)

_____ comments (18)

_____ other please describe... (12)

_____ other please describe (17)

_____ comments (18)

Page Break

Q26 *Do your clothes last as long as you would like them to?*

☐ yes (1)

☐ no (2)

Q27 Why is this?

Please type your answer in the box below.

Page Break

Q28 *Is there any regular maintenance that you perform on your clothes? And how often?*

mark the appropriate boxes

	never (1)	rarely (approx. twice a year) (2)	occasionally (approx. every couple of months) (3)	regularly (approx. every couple of weeks) (4)	always (approx. once a week or more) (5)
machine wash (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
hand wash (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
dry-clean (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
de-bobble (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
remove lint (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
remove stray threads (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
replace buttons (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
use iron on patches (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other please describe... (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break



Q29 *What does mending mean to you?*

Drag the relevant statements into the corresponding boxes, then rank them in order of importance with the most important at the top.

strongly Agree	agree	disagree	strongly Disagree
_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)	_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)	_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)	_____ it is a method of reducing the amount of garments I purchase and discard (1)
_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)	_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)	_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)	_____ it can increase the durability of my clothes (2)
_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)	_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)	_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)	_____ it can prevent the hassle of buying a replacement (3)
_____ it is part of my day to day rituals for maintaining my wardrobe (4)	_____ it is part of my day to day rituals for maintaining my wardrobe (4)	_____ it is part of my day to day rituals for maintaining my wardrobe (4)	_____ it is part of my day to day rituals for maintaining my wardrobe (4)
_____ it is a method of helping the environment (5)	_____ it is a method of helping the environment (5)	_____ it is a method of helping the environment (5)	_____ it is a method of helping the environment (5)

_____ it is something fun to do (6)	_____ it is something fun to do (6)	_____ it is something fun to do (6)	_____ it is something fun to do (6)
_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)	_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)	_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)	_____ it is a way of relaxing (7)
_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)	_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)	_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)	_____ it is a way of caring for my clothes (8)
_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)	_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)	_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)	_____ it is a way of stopping me from being scruffy (9)
_____ it is a means to an end (10)	_____ it is a means to an end (10)	_____ it is a means to an end (10)	_____ it is a means to an end (10)
_____ it is not a long term solution (13)	_____ it is not a long term solution (13)	_____ it is not a long term solution (13)	_____ it is not a long term solution (13)
_____ it is a way of being frugal (14)	_____ it is a way of being frugal (14)	_____ it is a way of being frugal (14)	_____ it is a way of being frugal (14)
_____ its a last resort (19)	_____ its a last resort (19)	_____ its a last resort (19)	_____ its a last resort (19)
_____ its an investment (20)	_____ its an investment (20)	_____ its an investment (20)	_____ its an investment (20)
_____ its something that my mother did and has been passed down generations (21)	_____ its something that my mother did and has been passed down generations (21)	_____ its something that my mother did and has been passed down generations (21)	_____ its something that my mother did and has been passed down generations (21)
_____ other please describe... (22)	_____ other please describe... (22)	_____ other please describe... (22)	_____ other please describe... (22)
_____ other please describe... (23)	_____ other please describe... (23)	_____ other please describe... (23)	_____ other please describe... (23)
_____ comments (24)	_____ comments (24)	_____ comments (24)	_____ comments (24)

Page Break



Q30 *How accurate are the following statements in terms of your view of mended clothes?*

Use the scale to mark how much you agree with each statement.

	Strongly agree (7)	Agree (8)	Somewhat agree (9)	Neither agree nor disagree (10)	Somewhat disagree (11)	Disagree (12)	Strongly disagree (13)
they look scruffy (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
they are alternative/ have a hippy look (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
they are more individual (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
if its done well you can't see the repair (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
it means that you can't afford to buy new clothes (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
its better for the environment (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

this is an
attention
filter. please
select
'strongly
disagree' for
this
statement
(12)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

it's too
much like
hard work
(7)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

I can enjoy
them for
longer (9)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

other please
describe (8)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

other please
describe (11)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

Skip To: End of Block If How accurate are the following statements in terms of your view of mended clothes? Use the scale... !=

Page Break



Q31 *What would encourage you to mend your clothes?*

Use the sliding scale to mark the importance of each statement.

very likely to mend

very unlikely to mend

free-time ()	
access to mending tutorials ()	
sewing tuition ()	
a pack of materials; e.g. thread, needles, scissors and spare fabric ()	
mending workshops ()	
regular mending get together like stitch and bitch ()	
better quality garments ()	
other please describe ()	
other please describe ()	

Q32 Do you have any further comments that you would like to add about mending?

Please type your answer in the box below.

End of Block: Non-mending Jane

Start of Block: General questions to understand social demographic

Q17 ***Which category below includes your age?*** Tick the appropriate response

☐ 16 -20 (1)

☐ 21-25 (2)

☐ 26-30 (3)

☐ 31-35 (4)

☐ 36-40 (5)

☐ 41-45 (6)

☐ 46-50 (7)

☐ 51-55 (8)

☐ 56-60 (9)

☐ 61-65 (10)

☐ 66-70 (11)

☐ 71 and over (12)

Page Break

Q18 *What is your occupation?*

Q19 *What is your employment status?*

Please tick the appropriate response

☐ employed/ self-employed working full time (1)

☐ work part-time (4)

☐ retired (5)

☐ un-employed (6)

☐ student (7)

☐ homemaker (8)

☐ other please describe... (9) _____

Page Break

Q20 *What type of environment do you live in?*

Tick the appropriate response.

☐ city/ Urban (1)

☐ suburbia (2)

☐ village (semi rural) (3)

☐ rural (4)

Q21 *what is your nationality?*

(this is to help uncover whether some countries have more of a mending culture)

Q22 *How many people are in your household?*

☐ number of adults (1) _____

☐ number of children (under 18) (2) _____

Page Break

Q23 *The following statements describe different attitudes towards the environment. Which one sentence is the most relevant to you?*

Tick the most appropriate statement. (The statements are from a DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) report where they split the population into seven pro-environmental behaviour groups).

- ☐ I think it's important that I do as much as I can to limit my impact on the environment. (1)
- ☐ 'Waste not, want not' that's important, you should live life thinking about what you are doing and using. (2)
- ☐ I think I do more than a lot of people. Still, going away is important, I'd find that hard to give up.. well I wouldn't, so carbon off- setting would make me feel better. (3)
- ☐ I think climate change is a big problem for us. I know I don't think much about how much water or electricity I use, and I forget to turn things off.. I'd like to do a bit more. (4)
- ☐ I do a couple of things to help the environment. I'd really like to do more, well as long as I saw others were. (5)
- ☐ I don't know much about climate change. I can't afford a car so I use public transport... I'd like a car though. (6)
- ☐ Maybe there'll be an environmental disaster, maybe not. Makes no difference to me, I'm just living life the way I want to. (7)

Page Break

End of Block: General questions to understand social demographic

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[illegible]

121	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can,occassion,can,occassion never	never	occasionally	never	never	0	100	0	necessity,conlack of free ti	7	5		
122	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	4	1	6	sewing ability/my upbringing,being in the right frame of mind				
123	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	23	19	10	being in the clack of free ti	9	1		
125	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/mending mandy	very rarely	(linen)	never	never	never	0	2	0	sewing ability and knowledge of mending skills,have available m				
126	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	36	31	24	necessity,halt societal pres	6	9		
127	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can								
128	qualtrics	yes	family,repair shop	I don't mend cloth/mending mandy	very rarely	(linen)	never	never	never	20	20	1	have availabl confidence in mending ability,hasse to replace				
129	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can								
130	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can								
131	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,repair shop	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	rarely	(apportionally)	never	very rarely	(irarely)	approx. once a year	10	50	6	somewhere (clack of free ti	1	3	
132	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/non sewer	can	never	can	can	can								
133	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	regularly	can	never	can	can	91	80	70	have availabl societal pres	3	4	
134	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	regularly	can	can	can	can	30	55	10	my upbringing,environment	8	5	
136	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	regularly	can	can	can	can	10	81	2	being in the clack of free ti	7	1	
137	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	5	5	1	hasse to replahabit,societal pressures,my upbringing,access to me			
138	qualtrics	yes	dry cleaner	I don't mend cloth/non sewer	never	never	never	never	never	19	31	2	somewhere chare available	1	8		
139	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	20	30	7	necessity,sewack of free ti	3	5	
140	qualtrics	yes	family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	51	70	10	somewhere environment	1	5	
141	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	80	99	33	somewhere clack of free ti	1	12	
142	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	51	70	10	somewhere environment	1	5	
143	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	80	99	33	somewhere clack of free ti	1	12	
144	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/non sewer	never	never	never	never	never	never	15	15	8	somewhere (clack of free ti	1	6	
145	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/non sewer	never	never	never	never	never	never	2	5	1	sewing ability/clack of free ti	5	3	
146	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	33	40	5	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity			
147	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	33	40	5	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity			
148	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	33	40	5	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity			
149	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	33	40	5	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity			
150	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	33	40	5	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity			
151	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	33	40	5	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity			
152	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	33	40	5	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity			
153	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor	I only mend my own mending mandy	regularly	(apportionally)	never	very rarely	(irarely)	approx. once a year	26	45	29	habit,somewack of free ti	10	11	
154	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	never	occasionally	occasionally	very rarely	(linen)	80	90	93	somewhere clack of free ti	1	6	
155	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	never	occasionally	occasionally	very rarely	(linen)	80	90	93	somewhere clack of free ti	1	6	
156	qualtrics	yes	other. Please describe....	I only mend my own mending mandy	rarely	(apportionally)	never	never	occasionally	very rarely	20	10	4	access to environmental concerns,r			
157	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	never	never	never	very rarely	42	20	0	sewing ability/clack of free ti,access to			
158	qualtrics	yes	yourself,local tailor	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	never	never	never	very rarely	42	20	0	sewing ability/clack of free ti,access to			
159	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	never	never	never	very rarely	42	20	0	sewing ability/clack of free ti,access to			
160	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I only mend my own mending mandy	very rarely	(linen)	very rarely	(linen)	very rarely	(linen)	5	0	2	necessity,sonlack of free ti	10	12	
161	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	never	never	occasionally	very rarely	(irarely)	approx. once a year	87	13	4	have availabl habit,being in	6	4
162	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	31	53	11	confidence in clack of free ti	12	11	
163	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
164	qualtrics	yes	family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
165	qualtrics	yes	yourself,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
166	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
167	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
168	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
169	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
170	qualtrics	yes	yourself,repair shop	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	28	40	18	being in the hassle to rep	2	1	
171	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/non sewer	never	never	never	never	never	never	11	51	10	clack of free ti/social pressures,necessity	5	6	
172	qualtrics	yes	yourself,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	30	40	14	sewing ability/clack of free ti	4	6	
173	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	30	40	14	sewing ability/clack of free ti	4	6	
174	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	30	40	14	sewing ability/clack of free ti	4	6	
175	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	30	40	14	sewing ability/clack of free ti	4	6	
176	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,local tailor,repair shop	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	30	40	14	sewing ability/clack of free ti	4	6	
177	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	10	70	5	my upbringing,clack of free ti	6		
178	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	10	70	5	my upbringing,clack of free ti	6		
179	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	2	3	0	necessity,bei access to mending / sewin	2		
180	qualtrics	yes	yourself,repair shop	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	2	3	0	necessity,bei access to mending / sewin	2		
181	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,friend,repair shop	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	5	5	2	sewing ability/environment	9	6	
182	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	very rarely	(linen)	never	never	never	very rarely	20	50	20	clack of free ti/confidence ir	3	5	
183	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	36	81	24	somewhere environment	1		
184	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	very rarely	(linen)	never	never	never	very rarely	36	81	24	somewhere environment	1		
185	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	61	82	68	somewhere my upbringing	1		
186	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	3	4	7	sewing ability/clack of free ti,hasse to	2		
187	qualtrics	yes	yourself,friend,local tailor	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	3	4	7	sewing ability/clack of free ti,hasse to	2		
188	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	39	68	13	sewing ability/social pres	3		
189	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/non sewer	can	can	can	can	can	can	2	5	0	somewhere chare available	1	2	
190	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	10	10	5	access to environment	4	7	
191	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	38	65	16	environment societal pres	8	6	
192	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	10	100	20	my upbringing,clack of free ti	9	7	
193	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	20	8	1	somewhere my upbringing	1	3	
194	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	1	41	1	my upbringing,clack of free ti	5	6	
195	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	18	16	30	confidence in habit,hasse to replace			
196	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	40	50	20	necessity,conlack of free ti	3	5	
197	qualtrics	yes	yourself,member of your family,friend,repair shop	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	4	6	2	hasse to replace of free ti	3	2	
198	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	30	45	3	being in the clack of free ti	5	1	
199	qualtrics	yes	yourself,friend,repair shop	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	31	40	2	being in the clack of free ti	5	1	
200	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	32	71	12	confidence in clack of free ti	9	12	
201	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	32	71	12	confidence in clack of free ti	9	12	
202	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	32	71	12	confidence in clack of free ti	9	12	
203	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	40	40	21	necessity,bei my upbringing	3	2	
204	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	30	11	11	necessity,hassew ability and knowledge of mending skills,habit,			
205	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I only mend my own mending mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	41	60	5	sewing ability/clack of free ti	3	6	
206	qualtrics	yes	yourself,friend	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	9	49	11	hasse to rep confidence ir	7	10	
207	qualtrics	yes	yourself,friend	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	9	49	11	hasse to rep confidence ir	7	10	
208	qualtrics	yes	yourself,repair shop	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	20	10	10	somewhere my upbringing	1	3	
209	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	10	29	2	have availabl clack of free ti	3	5	
210	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	20	50	10	sewing ability/clack of free ti	6		
211	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	40	60	25	sewing ability/social pres	9		
212	qualtrics	yes	member of your family	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	59	81	9	sewing ability/habit,necessi	2	7	
213	qualtrics	yes	family,repair shop	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	40	51	20	sewing ability and knowles	2		
214	qualtrics	yes	yourself	I mend my clothes arrounding mandy	can	can	can	can	can	can	2	0	0	necessity,conlack of free ti	5		
215	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/mending mandy	very rarely	(linen)	never	never	never	very rarely	2	0	0	necessity,conlack of free ti	5		
216	qualtrics	yes	no one/ never	I don't mend cloth/mending mandy	very rarely	(linen)	never	never	never	very rarely	2	0	0	necessity,conlack of free ti	5		
217	qualtrics	yes	dry cleaner	I don't mend cloth/mending mandy	very rarely	(linen)	never	never	never	very rarely	2	0	0	necessity,conlack of free ti	5		
218	qualtrics																

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6	4	2		1	3				1		6		2	4	5	3
1		2														
3	4		8	2	7	6	5		2	1		2		1	3	4
2	1	3	5	4												
8	7	4	5	1		2	3		3				4		1	2
1	2										1		2			
2	4	7	6	5					1				5	3	2	6
1			6	7	8	5	9				4	3			1	2
2	4		3	6	7	1			2		4		5		3	1
4	6	5	11	2	3	9	8	10							2	1
4	6	5		3	1	9	8	2		6	7	5		4	1	3
7	2		3		6	5		4		2		1		3	5	4
2			1		6	7			1	2		3				
4	8	2	9	5		6	7		4				3		2	1
11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	2	3							
4	2	9		3	8	5	7		1			3			2	4
4	1	2	3	6		4	7		1			2	2	5	3	6
2															1	
10	8	7	6	4		5		3	2		1			3		2
9	7	8	3	5	4	1	2	6		1						2
10	9	8	7	2		4	5	3		1				2		3
2	8	6	5		1	4	3		3			2		3	1	4
5	1	4	1	2				3		1			2	3	2	1
4	1	3	2						3				2		1	3
11	9	8	6	1	5	4	2	7	3	1						
15		2	5					3								
10	5	1	2	7	6	3	4	8	9	2	1	4		6	7	1
4	3	1		5		6			5	6		2		1		
	4	1										4		7	1	2
10	8	6	5	4		1	3	2	7					4	2	1
1	6	5		4	2					1						
2	8	4	9	1		3	7			2		5		1	3	4
2	8	4	9	1		3	7			1		2				
5	1	3	2							1						
5	7	6	8	1	4			9		1				2	3	4
2			4			6	7			2		1	3			5
	6	8	3	2		7	5	4		1	3			2		4
2	5		4	3		1			3	1		2				
3			1								2		1			
8	1	3	5	2		7					2		1		2	4
2			6	7		4					6	1	2		5	
2			4	3												
2	8	5		3	7		6	4		2	2		5		3	1
1										1						
1										3				2		1
	3									1				2		
5	2	3	1		6				4				6	5	2	3
3	7	2	5		9	4		1		2		3		4		1
2	3	8	6	5	4	1				1		2			4	3
5	2		4	7	6					2		3	5		1	4
9	7	8	11	4	3	10	1	2		2					1	
2														2	1	
4	2		1		6				1	2		6		5	4	7
4	2	3	8	5		9	10	11	7		1	2	3			
5	2	1	4	8	7	3	6	10	11		1					
Jack of free time confidence in mending																
5	1	2	5	7	8	10	4	9		1	2					3
4	3	9	2	1	4		6	8								
2	5									2					1	
1																
3	1	2		4	5	7	8									5
5	1		2	8	6	4	7	3		2	4		3			1
5	1	3					4	6		6			4	2	3	1
1	4	6					3	5								5
comfortable	2	1														
1		3		2	7	4	5				5		1		4	
4																
2		5		3	1		4				4		6		2	1
6	3		4		5						1					
5	1	2	4	3							1					
7	2	3	2	1	4		1	2	6							
11	5	2	10	8	4	9	7	3	6		2	1		4		3
2	3			4												
3	2		6			5		7		1					2	
4		5	2	1	8					2					1	
1	2									3						
5		6		3	1	2		4								
1			5	4		3				7		6	4	5		2
7	6	2		1		3	4	9	8	4	1					
3	2									1						
7		5	4	3	2	1				5	6	4	3			2
1		4	5	8			3		6		5		2		4	3
5	3	2								3						
2	3	4		1	6		1		7		4		2	1	2	5
12	10	5	3	11	9	7	6	2	8							
3										1						2
8	7			5		6	4	2	3		1	4	5		3	2
12	3	6	10	8	9	5	7	2	4		1					
4	2	3		3		7				3				4	5	1

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		4	3	6	4	2	1	4	6	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	50	30	30	10	
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	6	7	2	1	1	2	7	2	1	18	8	1	94	15	
		4	2	4	5	2	2	4	6	4	2	4	3	4	5	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	38	44	42	38	49	
		2	2	2	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	44	45	42	44	45	
		2	3	4	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	1	1	1	3	6	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	7	7
		1	1	4	4	1	1	1	4	4	4	1	1	1	4	4	6	2	1	1	2	1	7	75	50	75	51	70	
		2	1	4	7	4	2	4	6	4	5	4	6	5	4	4	5	4	2	2	4	4	5	32	51	40	51	43	
		1	1	4	4	4	1	6	1	7	7	4	4	4	3	1	4	7	7	4	1	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	
		1	2	2	1	2	2	3	6	2	1	2	4	2	3	4	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	30	23	22	43	29	
		1	2	5	4	2	1	4	6	3	2	4	7	5	4	5	4	2	1	3	2	2	3	20	51	21	55	14	
		5	3	5	5	4	2	4	5	4	2	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	2	40	51	51	51	41	
		2	2	4	3	3	2	2	5	4	2	3	4	4	4	4	6	4	4	4	3	3	4	28	44	43	40	51	
		3	3	4	5	2	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	3	3	5	4	2	3	4	5	3	30	34	44	43	32	
		3	2	5	4	4	3	2	4	5	4	3	4	5	5	6	4	3	3	3	5	2	4	18	24	24	25	18	
		4	3	4	4	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	6	4	4	2	4	4	2	1	4	1	10	15	7	6
		2	2	2	1	1	2	5	4	1	1	2	1	1	3	6	3	2	1	2	3	3	3	12	17	19	20	25	
		1	1	2	3	1	1	6	6	3	2	2	6	6	5	6	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	27	39	23	28	18	
		1	4	5	4	2	2	4	2	2	5	6	4	6	4	5	4	3	3	4	3	4	6	17	20	22	15	19	
		2	3	3	4	3	2	2	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	5	4	4	10	9	15	15	16	
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	1	7	3	3	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	11	17	4	8	8	
		1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	
		3	2	5	4	2	2	4	5	4	2	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	14	15	16	18	59	
		3	5	6	2	6	3	5	3	5	7	6	2	3	2	6	3	5	1	6	3	4	5	18	40	69	33	14	
		1	1	6	1	1	1	6	6	4	6	6	6	7	5	2	2	2	3	2	4	6	3	23	86	3	11	0	
		3	5	5	4	2	3	4	3	5	3	4	5	1	4	4	3	4	4	5	5	4	6	30	51	39	51	1	
		2	2	2	4	3	2	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	4	25	32	29	30	28	
		1	2	2	6	5	3	5	3	1	7	3	4	4	1	2	3	4	3	3	5	6	5	89	58	40	65	17	
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	4	4	7	4	4	2	1	2	3	4	26	0	0	1	2	
		1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	4	2	1	1	3	1	2	36	72	100	84	74	
		1	1	3	4	1	3	7	7	1	1	4	6	7	7	7	7	3	1	1	2	4	1	10	11	12	12	0	
		2	3	4	1	2	1	2	2	2	5	3	2	3	5	5	4	3	3	2	3	4	5	69	100	65	70	54	
		3	3	4	3	4	2	4	2	2	5	6	6	2	5	4	5	5	3	2	3	4	5	31	82	66	75	60	
		3	3	4	5	3	5	3	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	2	4	2	4	3	3	5	63	71	49	56	56	
		2	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	3	5	1	4	3	5	38	61	70	62	62		
		3	4	4	4	3	2	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	4	3	43	60	43	43	36	
		1	3	1	3	1	3	1	5	3	1	2	5	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	9	10	16	16	0	
		4	2	4	3	2	2	5	6	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	51	60	49	51	50	
		1	3	2	3	3	1	5	4	5	4	5	7	7	4	7	5	2	5	5	2	2	3	28	28	35	59	72	
		2	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	2	5	5	3	5	4	5	3	4	4	5	27	15	34	16	40	
		1	1	7	1	3	3	7	7	1	1	1	4	3	6	5	2	1	1	2	3	1	5	0	28	0	33	0	
		2	2	4	2	2	2	7	7	4	4	7	7	4	3	6	4	6	6	6	4	6	4	68	75	42	74	22	
		2	2	4	2	1	4	5	6	4	2	4	6	6	5	6	4	3	3	2	2	4	2	20	73	41	25	69	
		2	2	4	2	3	3	4	6	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	54	53	53	53	54	
		1	1	3	2	1	1	4	6	5	3	3	4	6	6	3	4	2	3	3	4	5	4	3	49	34	17	37	
		6	4	5	5	3	6	6	4	6	5	7	5	4	6	6	5	5	7	6	7	7	4	87	76	35	70	86	
		2	2	3	1	3	2	3	6	4	2	2	4	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	78	75	81	68	76	
		1	2	4	3	3	2	6	5	5	6	4	5	3	4	3	4	2	2	3	3	3	4	23	33	32	14	36	
		1	4	4	4	4	1	4	7	4	4	4	7	4	4	4	7	4	3	2	2	4	4	30	50	30	51	32	
		1	3	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	4	3	4	5	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	50	32	32	30	49	
		1	1	4	3	1	1	7	7	1	4	4	1	7	5	6	4	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	5	2	2	5	
		1	1	4	1	1	1	7	4	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	2	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	
		1	1	2	2	1	1	6	2	1	3	4	3	6	4	4	4	5	2	2	4	1	3	51	28	51	34	23	
		2	2	3	2	1	1	6	3	2	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	18	12	15	19	15	
		1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	5	5	1	1	4	4	3	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	15	
		1	1	2	3	5	3	6	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	4	4	3	2	3	3	26	20	27	39	40	
		2	6	4	3	2	2	6	3	2	2	4	6	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	21	39	17	27	52	
		6	6	5	6	6	5	3	2	6	6	5	6	2	3	3	3	4	6	5	5	2	3	36	43	43	61	44	
		4	1	4	2	1	4	4	5	4	2	3	2	2	7	7	5	6	1	1	1	3	2	3	17	8	3	15	
		1	4	4	4	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	3	1	1	4	3	5	7	0	0	0	1	85	
		1	1	1	6	1	1	6	1	3	4	3	6	4	4	4	4	5	2	2	4	1	3	25	32	45	51	32	
		1	1	1	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	5	4	2	3	3	6	11	31	21	25	
		4	3	1	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	5	1	4	4	4	32	51	51	51	39	
		1	3	5	1	1	1	4	6	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	3	2	4	3	4	3	0	0	0	16	16	
		1	2	2	1	1	1	5	6	2	4	2	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	1	6	55	32	25	53	9	
		4	4	4	4	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	7	3	0	8	
		3	4	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	44	41	51	66	82	
		1	2	4	4	1	2	3	7	2	2	2	4	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	2	3	2	11	11	13	15	14	
		4	3	4	3	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	6	5	5	5	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	10	86	93	84	94	
		3	3	4	3	3	2																						

377

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

385

[illegible]

		what would encourage you to mend a piece of clothing?																											
		VERY UNLIKELY TO MEND															VERY LIKELY TO MEND												
other place decider	other place decider	other place decider	very unlikely to mend	very likely to mend garment	good quality garment	something worn regularly	having a good amount of wearable clothes	an expensive garment	affection towards a garment	a gift/ hand me down from family or friends	a brand- named garment	something that is easy to repair	a clean garment	the desire to keep the garment in use as long as possible	desirable features of the garment	the cost of replacement	having no replacement in wardrobe	other place decider	other place decider	good quality garment	something worn regularly	having a good amount of wearable clothes	an expensive garment	affection towards a garment	a gift/ hand me down from family or friends	a brand- named garment	something that is easy to repair	a clean garment	
[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]	[important]

having a small good quality garment, something worn	1				2	5				3	4				1	2		6	8	3	7					
something thudurable/ hard wearing garment e.g. denim, affection towards a garment, a gift/ hand me down from family					1										12	7		6	9	10	11	8		5		
affection tow something worn regularly, a good quality garment, the desire to ke a good quality garment, the cost of replacement, an expensive garment, the desire to keep the garment in use					1	5			4			2	3			2	1	8	6			7		5		
a gift/ hand ra good quality garment, an expensive garment, affection towards a garment, hand					1	2	3							4		1	5	4	2	3				9		
something the good quality garment, the cost of repla					3				1			2				1			3							
durable/ hand affection towards a garment, the desire to keep the garment in use, an expensive					3				2			1							3	1						
a trend-led garment (fashion), a gift/ hand me down from family or friends, an expensive garment, a good quality garment, something worn regularly, durable/ hard wearing garment e.g. denim, something that is easy															4	5		3			2	1		7		
having a small amount of					13	12	1	2	3	4	5	11	7	6	10	9	8									
having a small good quality garment, the cost of repla					1							6	5	4		3		2			1	3		7	6	5
the desire to the cost of replacement, a					6	5	4					1		3											4	
a gift/ hand something worn regularly, an expensive					2													3	1		2					
having a smathe desire to keep the garment in use, a					1				2			3						4	5		7	2		8		9
something th the desire to keep the garment in use, a good quality garment, something worn regularly, an expensive gar					1													10	11	9	12	8	7	6		4
something the good quality garment, affection towards a garment, an expensive garment, something worn regularly					1							2						1	4		3	2				
having no replacement in					12	11	8	9		10	7	13	5	6	3	4	2	1								
something th the desire to keep the garment in use, having a small amount of wearable clothes, the cost of replacement, a					1														2				4		5	
something the good quality garment, something worn regularly, an expensive garment, a classic garment					1													1	2		3				4	
an expensive garment, having a small amount of wearable clothes, a good quality garment, something worn regularly																		3	4	2	1					
a gift/ hand ra good quality garment, something worn regularly, having a small amount of wea					1	2	3		4			5		6				1	2	3	4	5				
something the good quality garment, an expensive garment, the desire to keep the garment in					2		1		3									1			2	4		5		
something the good quality garment, a trend-led garment (fashion), a gift/ hand me down from family or friends, an exp					1													1	7	4	12	2	11	10		9
something th affection towards a garment, a gift/ hand me down from family or friends, having a small amount of wear					1													6	5	3	4	1	2			
a good qual something we					1				2	5	3	6		4				1	2	7	4					
something the good quality garment, a trend-led garment (fashion), having a small amount of wearable clothes, some the					1													1	4	3	6	5		2		
something th having a small amount of wearable clothes, the cost of replacement, an expensive garment					1															1	3					
something th the desire to keep the gar					4				2	6	1	7		3	8	5			4		5	3	2			
a trend-led ga good quality garment, having no replacement in wardrobe, something worn reg					3	1	2											1	2	5	3	4			8	
a trend-led having no replacement in wardrobe, a good quality ga					4	2	1						3					2						4	3	
something wa good quality garment					1					3	2							1								
a good qual having a sma					1				2										2	1						
something th affection towards a garne					3					1			2								1	2	4			
something wa good quality garment, off					1	2			5	9	8	7		6	4	3		1			3	2				
something than expensive garment, a good quality garment, affection towards a garment									1									2			1	3				

MEND								is there any regular maintenance that you perform on your clothes? And how often?																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
								the items to keep the garment in use e.g. shoes		the cost of replacement	being too difficult to maintain	other phone descriptor...	other phone descriptor...	other phone descriptor... Trip	other phone descriptor... Foot	machine wash	hand wash	dry clean	dry bubble	machine洗	machine洗 Shoes			machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 Shoes	machine洗 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4	5									always (approx. always) (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (occasionally) (regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. every couple of weeks)	0	29
4	1	3	2							always (approx. occasionally) (rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (never)	59	57
3			4							always (approx. occasionally) (rarely) (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (irregularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. rarely) (approx. twice a year)	95	38
4		2								always (approx. occasionally) (never) (rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. occasionally) (rarely) (approx. twice a year)	30	41
8	7	6								regularly (approx. never) (never) (never) (never) (never) (rarely) (approx. never)	100	100
		2								always (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. never) (never) (always) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. every couple of weeks)	17	14
2										regularly (approx. rarely) (approx. occasionally) (never) (never) (never) (never) (never)	48	38
6										always (approx. occasionally) (never) (regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. always) (approx. never)	2	1
4		2								always (approx. occasionally) (never) (never) (never) (occasionally) (never) (never)	88	84
										always (approx. never) (never) (never) (never) (rarely) (approx. occasionally) (never)	74	35
3	1									regularly (approx. rarely) (approx. occasionally) (regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. every couple of weeks)	0	20
1	10	3	6							always (approx. occasionally) (rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (occasionally) (rarely) (approx. never)	60	56
1	5	3	2							regularly (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (irregularly) (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (approx. every couple of weeks)	24	22
										always (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (occasionally) (irregularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. occasionally) (never)	31	15
										regularly (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (never) (never) (never) (never) (never)	17	11
1		3								always (approx. occasionally) (rarely) (approx. never) (occasionally) (rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. never)	24	21
										always (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (never) (never) (never) (never) (rarely) (approx. never)	20	50
6		7								always (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (never) (never) (never) (never) (never) (never)	100	90
										always (approx. occasionally) (never) (never) (never) (rarely) (approx. never) (never)	81	29
3										always (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. never) (never) (never) (never) (never)	58	70
3	5	6	8							regularly (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. regularly) (approx. every couple of weeks)	19	11
										always (approx. never) (never) (never) (never) (always) (approx. rarely) (approx. never)	100	25
5		3	6							always (approx. occasionally) (never) (regularly) (approx. always) (approx. regularly) (approx. rarely) (approx. never)	32	33
										always (approx. occasionally) (never) (rarely) (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (occasionally) (never)	1	99
2										always (approx. occasionally) (occasionally) (never) (never) (never) (rarely) (approx. always) (approx. never) (Male Tights)	88	49
1										always (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. never)	100	100
6	7	9	10							always (approx. occasionally) (never) (occasionally) (occasionally) (occasionally) (occasionally) (rarely) (approx. twice a year)	10	14
			1							always (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (never) (None)	53	47
										always (approx. never) (rarely) (approx. never) (never) (rarely) (approx. never) (never) (never) (Nothing)	83	84
										always (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (never) (rarely) (approx. never) (rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. twice a year)	27	28
		3								regularly (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (never) (never) (rarely) (approx. never) (never)	51	70
4										occasionally (occasionally) (rarely) (approx. never) (never) (never) (rarely) (approx. never)	93	93
										regularly (approx. rarely) (approx. rarely) (approx. never) (occasionally) (occasionally) (rarely) (approx. never)	68	42

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34	36	31	35	36		yes	I wear (and repair) items until they really fall apart	N/A	female	26-30	student	city/Urban	British	2	0	I think it's im		
						yes	I mend the clothes to make them last longer.	no	female	41-45	manager	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	2	2	Waste not, v	
						yes	I keep the mended and fix it.	no	female	41-45	manager	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	2	0	I think it's im	
						yes	because I don't buy trendy clothes that are out of fashion and therefore no	no	male	11-35	general staff	work part-time	village (semi) British	2	0	I think I don't		
53	67	40	40	67		yes	I take care of them	none	male	36-40	labourer	work part-time	village (semi) British	3	0	I don't know		
						yes	I have no problems with clothes	no	female	66-70	homemaker	work part-time	suburbia	British	2	0	I think I don't	
						yes	I look after them as much as I can and repair where necessary	no	male	46-50	chef	work part-time	city/Urban	British	2	2	Waste not, v	
47	6	5	28	0		no	modern manufacturing processes and techniques	no	male	56-60	factory depa	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	2	Waste not, v	
42	42	68	42	56		yes	I mend them and only wear when needed	no	female	41-45	retail	employed/self-employed	rural	British	2	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I take care of my things	no	female	41-45	disabled	un-employed	village (semi) British	2	0	I don't know		
100	88	100	100	38		no	holes or scruffy before time	no	female	21-25	disabled	un-employed	city/Urban	British	2	0	Waste not, v	
35	14	6	18	10		yes	I look after them	no	male	51-55	entrepreneur	work part-time	rural	British	1	0	I think I do m	
						yes	wash them the right way and look after my clothes	nothing all good	male	31-35	office worker	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	2	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I buy good quality clothes	no	male	51-55	manager	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	2	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I wear favourite items a lot and grow attached to them	no	male	36-40	Architect	employed/self-employed	rural	British	1	1	I think it's im	
						yes	I wear them out.	no	female	46-50	homemaker	work part-time	city/Urban	British	2	0	Waste not, v	
						no	Not as well made as they used to be	no	male	46-50	credit control	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	0	Waste not, v	
45	44	46	73	27		yes	I take care and wash on the right settings	It's not a skill I desire - better to pay others	female	51-55	User Experie	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	1	0	I think I don't	
						yes	wear them to they fall apart	n/a	female	36-40	teacher	employed/self-employed	village (semi) British	2	0	I think it's im		
0	0	0	1	0		yes	I repair them as needed	n/a	male	26-30	warehouse	work part-time	village (semi) British	2	2	I think it's im		
						yes	Because I repair and mend where possible and I can't afford to replace that really other than we live in a three star	no	male	46-50	warehouse	work part-time	suburbia	British	2	1	Waste not, v	
86	93	92	95	99		yes	make them last	enjoy it	female	46-50	Homemaker	homemaker	city/Urban	British	2	2	Waste not, v	
18	35	31	21	30		yes	washing them wears them out	no	female	31-35	housewife	homemaker	suburbia	British	3	0	I think I don't	
						yes	Modern clothes seem to be well made nowadays.	no	male	46-50	Service mana	employed/self-employed	village (semi) British	2	2	I think I don't		
						yes	in careful with them	no	female	56-60	events mana	work part-time	city/Urban	British	2	1	I think I do m	
35	22	16	9	12		yes	I take good care of them	no idea	male	41-45	Government	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	1	0	I think it's im	
53	55	54	54	52		yes	I like this	I like this	female	41-45	associat	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	Greek	1	1	I think it's im	
						yes	yes because when I mend them for me my all emotions and my hand it's a good experience	no	male	31-35	Self worker	employed/self-employed	rural	British	2	2	I think it's im	
40	40	40	70	40		yes	I generally get good use out of them and don't mend if they look a little	None	female	36-40	house wife	homemaker	city/Urban	Indian	2	2	I think it's im	
						yes	I look after them.	no	male	31-35	Designer	employed/self-employed	village (semi) British	2	1	I think it's im		
						yes	no	no	female	46-50	health care	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	1	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I still wear clothes I bought years ago.	n/a	female	31-35	Disabled, un	other please see above	city/Urban	British	2	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	Repairs	no	female	51-55	holder	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	2	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I take good care of them	no	male	18-20	Student	student	city/Urban	Irish	4	1	I do a couple	
						yes	sometimes it wear and sometimes it become tight and need to expand. It's a way of caring for what I like. I mende	no	female	31-35	healthcare	work part-time	suburbia	British	2	0	I think it's im	
22	20	21	50	29		yes	they are well made and looked after	no	male	36-40	engineer	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	1	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I look after them and wash them delicately	no	female	18-20	Student	student	city/Urban	British	3	1	I do a couple	
						no	They get smaller very fast when I wash them	no	male	18-20	Legal	work part-time	city/Urban	Pakistani	3	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I look after them and fix them when needed	no	male	41-45	Health	employed/self-employed	rural	British	4	0	Waste not, v	
18	33	39	38	32		yes	I buy good quality clothes.	n/a	female	36-40	Admin assist	employed/self-employed	village (semi) British	3	0	Waste not, v		
						yes	Look after them	no	male	26-30	Student	student	city/Urban	British	6	1	Waste not, v	
						no	wear and tear	It's worthwhile and saves on wastage	male	56-60	homemaker	homemaker	village (semi) British	2	2	Waste not, v		
						yes	They usually last long enough and even longer	no	male	31-35	IT manager	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	2	2	I think it's im	
						yes	Because I am able to use them until the point it doesn't fit me	It's a fun experience that is useful to you	female	51-55	Retired	retired	city/Urban	British	2	4	I think I do m	
						yes	I don't want wastes	No	male	26-30	Customer sa	employed/self-employed	suburbia	Indian	4	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I take care of them.	no	female	36-40	Homemaker	homemaker	suburbia	Pakistani	2	0	I think I do m	
0	26	9	17	34		yes	I buy quality clothes	No	male	51-55	IT Director	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	4	2	Maybe there	
						yes	I've never had to take with clothing	no	female	21-25	Student	student	city/Urban	British	3	0	I think I don't	
						yes	I take good care of them.	no	female	31-35	Manager	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	1	I think it's im	
20	20	19	19	20		yes	I like to think that I take care of my clothes. I appreciate that taking of my clothes will increase it's longevity.	no	female	21-25	Freelancer	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	3	0	I think I don't	
						yes	Because I buy good quality clothes	no	female	16-20	General ass	student	village (semi) British	3	0	Waste not, v		
						yes	Because I take care of th.	No further comment.	female	21-25	Full time	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	Romanian	1	0	I do a couple	
						yes	because I get used to wearing them	no	male	31-35	IT manager	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	2	Waste not, v	
						no	I wear my favourite clothes probably too much, so trousers need replacing in places that can't be seen.	My mother taught me to sew, darn and co	female	71 and over	Retired	retired	city/Urban	British	1	0	Waste not, v	
50	40	50	25	25		yes	Get bored before they're worn out	no	female	31-35	chef	work part-time	city/Urban	British	1	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I believe in the adage "you get what you pay for" therefore in the long run it pays to buy better quality clothing	no	female	61-65	Retired	un-employed	rural	British	1	0	I don't know	
						yes	I take good care of them	no	female	61-65	Retired	retired	village (semi) British	1	0	I think I don't		
						no	Sometimes you just lose an item of clothing so much that you can only m/c capable and it causes buying new stuff	no	female	26-30	Disabled	un-employed	village (semi) rural	1	1	Waste not, v		
						yes	because I look after them	no	female	26-30	bar manager	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	1	0	I think it's im	
100	90	100	100	76		yes	Poor quality work	no	female	71 and over	Retired	retired	village (semi) British	2	0	I think I don't		
34	59	41	77	43		no	wear and tear	None	male	18-20	n/a	un-employed	city/Urban	British	2	1	I think I don't	
64	70	76	67	77		no	Wear and tear	None	male	18-20	n/a	un-employed	city/Urban	British	2	2	I think I don't	
						yes	I throw away clothes every couple of months or so and buy new ones.	I do not think I would be very good at it.	female	31-35	self employee	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	1	0	I think I do m	
						yes	Because I take a good care of them	no	female	36-40	Student	student	suburbia	British	2	2	Maybe there	
						yes	I look after them	no	female	31-35	receptionist	un-employed	rural	British	2	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I maintain them	no	female	36-40	Lawyer	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	Dutch	1	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I LOOK AFTER THEM	no	female	36-40	HOUSEWIFE	homemaker	suburbia	British	1	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I look after and mend my clothing	no	female	36-40	distributor	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	2	1	I think it's im	
						yes	As they were stored properly and well	no	female	36-40	factory	work part-time	rural	British	3	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	They are cared for	no	female	21-25	Teacher	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	4	0	Waste not, v	
9	4	2	1	7		yes	Wash according to instructions, generally look after them well	no	female	31-35	IFA	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	1	I think it's im	
						no	Not sure	no	female	21-25	Homemaker	homemaker	suburbia	British	2	1	I think I do m	
						yes	I look after them and buy quality pieces as well as more basic items.	no	female	46-50	Civil servant	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	4	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I REPAIR THEM	no	female	31-35	CEO/DRY	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	0	I think it's im	
						no	can usually recycle broken things into something new.	no	male	26-30	Mother	homemaker	city/Urban	British	2	1	I think it's im	
						no	general wear and tear, or catching/catching it on something, or stain	personally find it quite fiddly and even so	female	31-35	receptionist	un-employed	suburbia	British	2	2	Waste not, v	
						yes	GOOD QUALITY	no	female	51-55	IT MANAGER	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	2	Waste not, v	
26	66	100	66	0		no	I don't think they are made properly nowadays	no	female	56-60	exams invig	other please casual	work part-time	city/Urban	British	1	0	I do a couple
						yes	Because I can repair them if I need to.	no	female	36-40	Pa	employed/self-employed	city/Urban	British	1	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I look after them	no	female	61-65	Retired	retired	suburbia	British	2	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I take good care of it	no	female	31-35	Retail	work part-time	city/Urban	British	2	1	I think I don't	
						yes	I repair them if needed	no	female	31-35	home maker	homemaker	suburbia	British	2	1	I do a couple	
						yes	I try to take care of them	I started sewing back in high school in home ec	female	56-60	clerical	retired	village (semi) American	2	0	I think it's im		
						yes	look after and repair as soon as notice a problem	no	female	51-55	clerical	work part-time	suburbia	British	3	0	Waste not, v	
35	34	32	34	76		no	Often get snag etc	no	female	16-20	Student	student	suburbia	British	4	1	Waste not, v	
						yes	Looked after	no	female	36-40	Homemaker	homemaker	suburbia	British	3	5	I think it's im	
						no	The quality of workmanship on some clothes has become poorer over the years	no	female	41-45	Police officer	employed/self-employed	village (semi) British	2	0	I think it's im		
100	0	100	100	0		no	Most clothing these days are made in sweat shops and on a large production and cheap materials are often used	no	female	51-55	Unemployed	un-employed	city/Urban	British	3	1	I think I don't	
						no	I don't take enough care of my clothing.	I was unsuccessful on several occasions	male	26-30	student	student	city/Urban	British	2	1	I think I don't	
						yes	N/A	N/A	male	56-60	restaurant	unemployed/self-employed	rural	British	1	0	I think it's im	
						yes	Careful with clothes	no	male	26-30	Sales	employed/self-employed	suburbia	British	2	1	I do a couple	
						no	Wear them too often	I wish I was much better at doing the repairs	female	66-70	retired	retired	village (semi) British	3	0	Waste not, v		
						no	cheaply made	I learnt from young age	female	41-45	nurse	work part-time	city/Urban	British	2	0	Maybe there	
						no	Cheap	no	female	36-40	Social work	work part-time	suburbia	British	1	0	Waste not, v	
						yes	I don't really do anything that would cause them to get ruined before I am not very good but it's the thought that counts	no	female	16-20	Nothing	student	city/Urban	Zimbabwean	2	1	I think I don't	
						yes	Looking after your clothes	no	female	31-35	Cleaner	employed/self-employed	village (semi) British	2	4	I think it's im		
						yes	I don't like shopping	no	female	61-65	Local govern	retired	village (semi) British	2	0	I think I do m		
27	61	71	53	28		yes	I look after them	no	female	41-45	Retired	retired	city/Urban	British	1	0	I think it's im	
						yes	I don't do any activities that makes them need mending	no	female	16-20	Student	student	city/Urban	Indian	3	0	I do a couple	
						yes</												

8.3.3 Analysis

8.3.3.1 Analysing and Combining Separate Data Sets

The findings are taken from a total of 242 respondents¹⁵. These were sourced using two different sampling methods: snowballing, initially from the researcher's contacts¹⁶ a non-probability sample of 88 respondents (NPS) and the second a random UK population sample from a Qualtrics response panel¹⁷ of 164 respondents (RS).

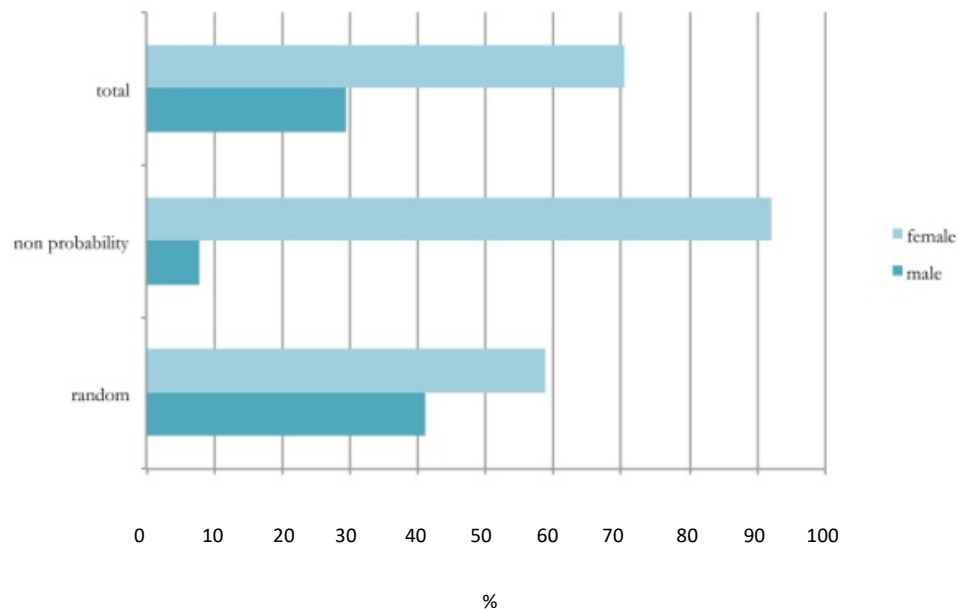


Figure 24. Chart showing disparity of male-female respondents

As outlined above the larger RS sample of 164 was generated randomly through a survey response panel, it targeted more of a cross section of the UK population whereas the NPS did not and this created the bias. I have acknowledged that the NPS (88 responses) may have had an element of bias. To clarify the same survey was used for the two data sets. The initial analysis split the two data samples to discover the similarities and differences between the data sets. The main distinctions between the two were:

1. **Speed:-** The average speed of completing the survey differed with the RS finishing within one third of the time of the NPS cluster¹⁸.
2. **Gender:-** Although 70% of the respondents were female (see Figure 24), the NPS was made up of over 90% women.

¹⁵ 10 responses were removed because of suspect reporting

¹⁶ There is a likely bias (reflecting the researchers values and attitudes) towards engagement with mending, design and sustainability than the general population.

¹⁷ Although this sample is more suggestive of the general population, there will be some bias as it is a paid sample where the sourced respondents perform many surveys for rewards on completion.

¹⁸ The difference in speed is possibly due to the RS familiarity with surveys.

3. **Menders:** – the NPS has a higher proportion of menders 92% compared to 71% of the RS (see Figure 25).
4. **Age demographic:-** The NPS had a higher proportion of respondents aged between 30-40, 45% compared to 21% for the RS.

In terms of gender this is to be expected due to the researcher's initial sampling methods being unintentionally biased towards women, as my contacts are predominantly female. Also the innate genderisation of mending may have meant that the survey was unintentionally passed (snowballed) to other women. However, the RS method had a 50/50 split of questionnaires sent to both sexes and still returned a nearly 60% female majority¹⁹.

Therefore, on the surface the two sample groups seemed to have different traits which might be difficult to amalgamate and analyse the total findings. Thus, when substantial differences were found between the two they have been reported separately. To clarify only when a significant difference was found did I separate the data sets. As the small response levels when reported separately questions the validity of the findings. Therefore, for some question responses the reporting of the data sets is combined. This should simplify the data's findings and give a larger data set to analyse. This merging of datasets was often used for behavioural questions that required pick and rank answers as it was useful to determine prominent overall characteristics. To help address this confusion the reported findings will be treated as combined data unless stated.

Even when the two data sets are merged (NPS and RS) the small sample size and the biases outlined above mean that this survey's findings are only indicative of the UK's larger population. They are to be used as a barometer for understanding our mending habits and as a foundation for further research.

8.3.4 Under and Over-reporting of Respondents

To validate the data and make sure that the analysis was accurate the survey had initial attention filters to check that the respondents were reading and answering correctly²⁰. Once the data was collated a further accuracy inspection took place to test the consistency of reporting, using three different questions to find out whether the respondents mended their own clothes:

- ⟨ Who mends your clothes?
- ⟨ Do you ever mend your clothes?
- ⟨ And have you mended anything the last 5 years?

It could be seen that there were inconsistencies between the replies with 13 percent answering that they had mended something in the last five years but that they didn't mend (in either question 1, or 2 or both), whilst 11 percent reported that they did mend but had not mended anything in the last five years. It could be as the

¹⁹ suggesting that either the subject appeals more towards women or the questionnaire itself was easier for women to complete.

²⁰ any completed surveys that were incorrectly filled in on these questions were automatically removed

respondents worked through the survey a later question triggered a memory or helped them understand what was meant.

This under and over reporting of mending means that nearly a quarter of the respondents had varying replies. The majority of these irregularities cancelled each other out so when analysed with the full dataset there are only small inconsistencies between each question with an overall 1.5% under-reporting of whether they mended their clothes, compared to whether they had mended anything in the last five years.

The decision as to what to do with these 58 inconsistent replies (23 per cent of the data) has been a difficult one as removing the affected data could mean that the 'integrity of the data set will be compromised' (Sue, 2007:107). Especially as the contradicting data roughly neutralised each other²¹ and excluding these responses affect the analysis directly with 86 per cent of the non-excluded respondents having mended a garment in the last 5 years compared to the 78 per cent of all respondents (this is due to a larger proportion of non-menders and RS respondents being removed therefore skewing the data towards the NPS outcomes. See Table 9).

participants who have mended something in the last 5 years	non-probability sample	random sample	total	count
total respondents	92%	71%	78%	252
inconsistent responses removed	94%	80%	86%	194
suspect responses removed	92%	70%	78%	242

Table 9. Illustrating effect of removing inconsistent and invalidated responses from the study.

Scrutinising this discreet group further, a small proportion of suspect data (4 per cent of the total respondents equalling 10 respondents) was discovered where the first two questions do not marry²² signifying that the consistency of reporting is quite high (see Table 10).

	Count of sample	Percentage of sample %
Total respondents	252	100
Inconsistent responses (IDS)	48	19
Suspect responses	10	4

Table 10. Illustrating percentage of inconsistent and invalidated responses.

This suspect or invalidated data is predominantly (90 per cent) from the random sample and is more likely due to inattentiveness²³. Therefore, it was decided to remove the invalidated data from the study, retaining the remaining inconsistent (under/over-reporting) data to interrogate further as a discreet group. The vast majority of responses were accurate and in order to validate the data further each of the separate groups, random (RS), non-probability (NPS) and inconsistent (IDS)) are analysed for each question to bring any

²¹ this could be an issue with online surveys when questions cannot be revisited to alter responses if the respondents realize they have been inconsistent.

²² where the respondent answers contradicting replies to: 1. Who mends your clothes? And 2. Do you ever mend your clothes?

²³ due to speed of survey completion, lack of interest in the subject, or miss reading the questions for example

inconsistencies or biases to light. To clarify unless stated data sets are merged for reporting. The definition of terms below details the separate data sets that have been identified within the survey responses’.

8.3.4.1 Menders Versus Non-menders

This section sets out the distinctions between the menders and non-menders in relation to gender, age, environmental behaviour and amount of free-time.

Of the respondents 78 per cent reported that they had mended something in the last 5 years²⁴. When this is broken down into gender around three quarters of the menders were women. Of the female respondents, over 80 percent reported mending whilst only 60 percent of men did (see Figure 25).

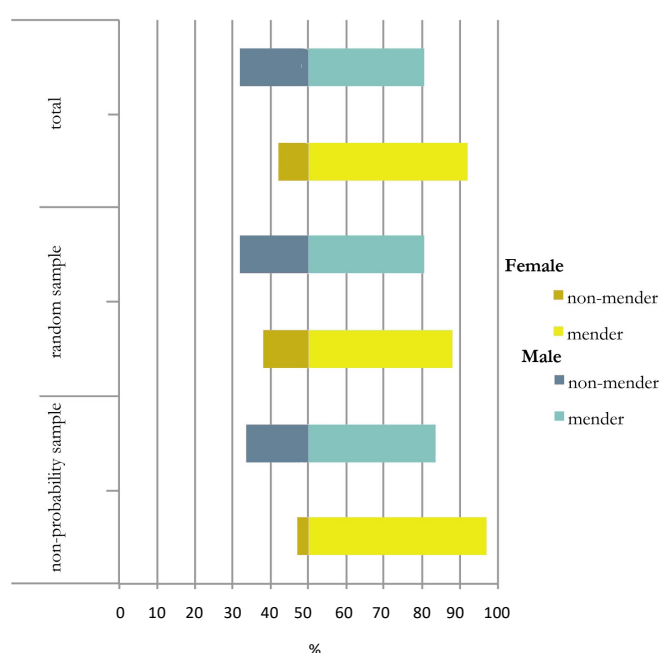


Figure 25. Gender breakdown of menders and non menders, excluding inconsistent group.

As can be seen the main demographics represented were the 30 to 40-year-olds (approximately 35%) this was skewed by the NPS,²⁵ which was biased towards the researcher’s age group due to the sampling method. Therefore, only the RS was analysed (Figure 26 & Figure 27).

The age-groups, 16-20, 21-25 and 56-60 all have high ratios of non-menders (over 40%) (this can be seen with greater clarity in Figure 29), compared to the other age groups (up to 20% are non-menders). However, when looked at using the random sample (removing the non-probability sample with mending bias see Figure

²⁴ The survey used this question as a branching point to separate menders and non-menders giving them questions appropriate to their response (refer to 3.3.3 in Thesis).

²⁵ 45% of non-probability sample are 30 to 40, whilst the random sample is 21%, demonstrating that the 30 – 40 age group is the main demographic in both groups.

28) the same less distinct pattern can be seen. This shows that the respondents more unlikely to mend are in the 16-25 and 21-25 age-groups.

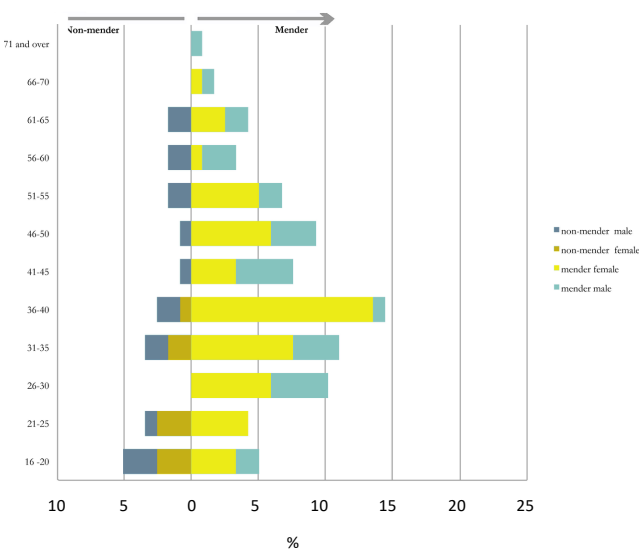
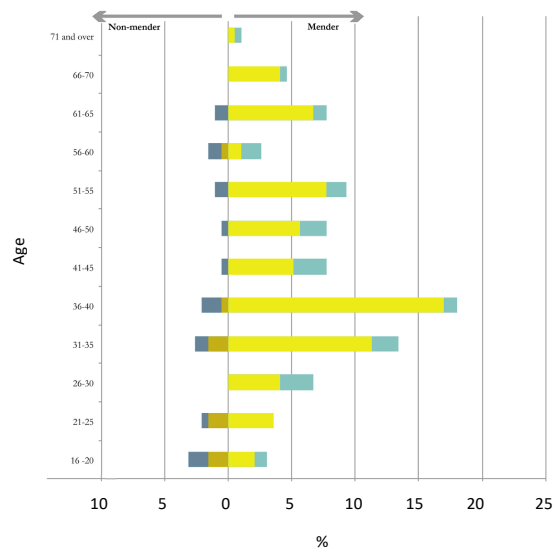


Figure 26. (right) RS: ratio of menders and non-menders by age and gender (without IDS: count of 118).

Figure 27. (left) Total percentage of menders and non-menders gender by age group (without IDS count 194).

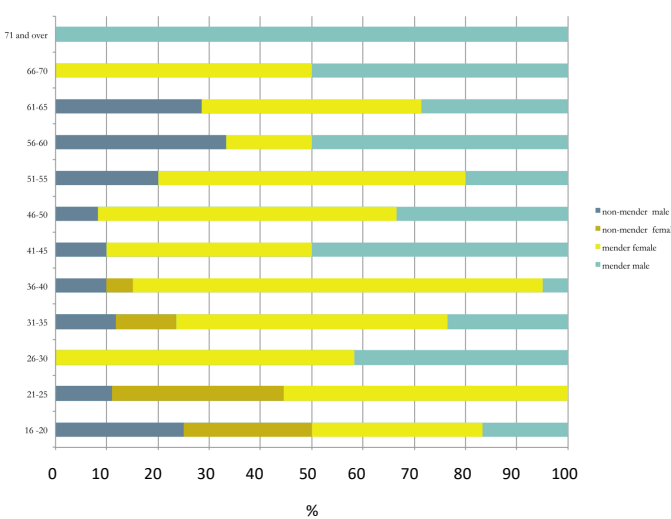
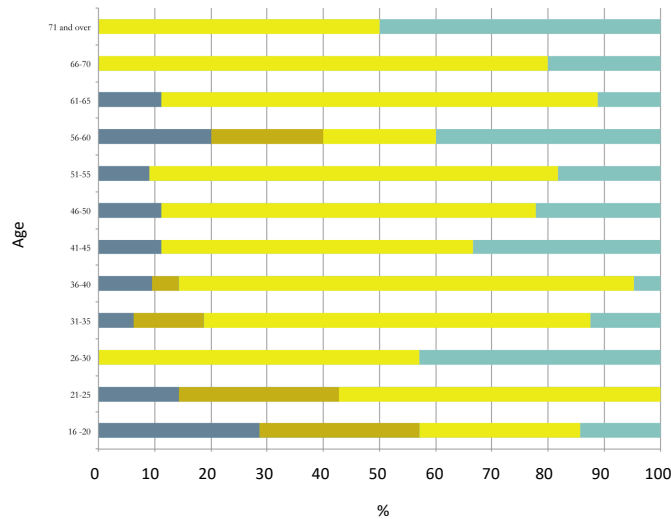


Figure 29. (left) Total Ratio of menders and non-menders by age and gender (without IDS: count of 194).

Figure 28. (right) RS: percentage of menders and non-menders gender by age group (without IDS count 118).

Using Defra's environmental behaviours framework²⁶ the respondents were asked to report which of the following statements was most relevant to them (see Figure 31), (2008, Figure 30) The findings show that 2, waste watchers (38 %) and 1, positive greens (35 %) were the most popular groups with approximately 10% of each group being non-menders. The third largest group was, 4, side-line supporters. When looked at using the proportion of menders and non-menders in each group, 3, concerned consumers and 4, side-line supporters both have around 30% of non-menders (see Figure 32). However, 5, stalled starters only had one respondent so using this method (percentage proportion) distorted the value of its response.

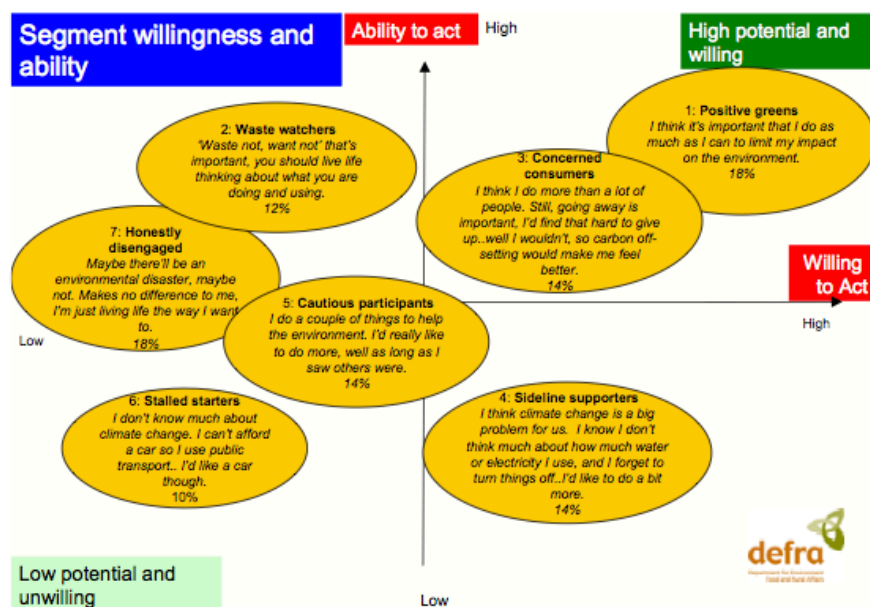


Figure 30. Environmental behaviours framework, DEFRA.

²⁶ This framework separates the population into seven segments looking at behaviours within; personal transport, Eco-products and Homes energy, waste and water. The higher the groups are on the diagram means the greater the ability of the group to act. Whilst the further to the right that the groups are means the more willing they are to act therefore the groups in the top right-hand square are the most willing and able to act.

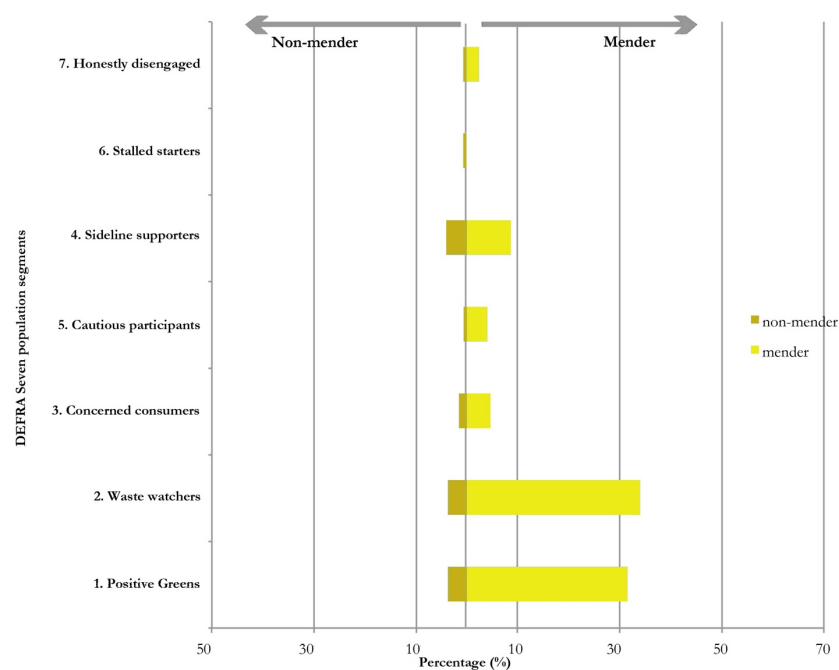


Figure 31. Diagram of DEFRA environmental behaviour statements in relevance to menders and non-menders (excluding IDS, count 194).

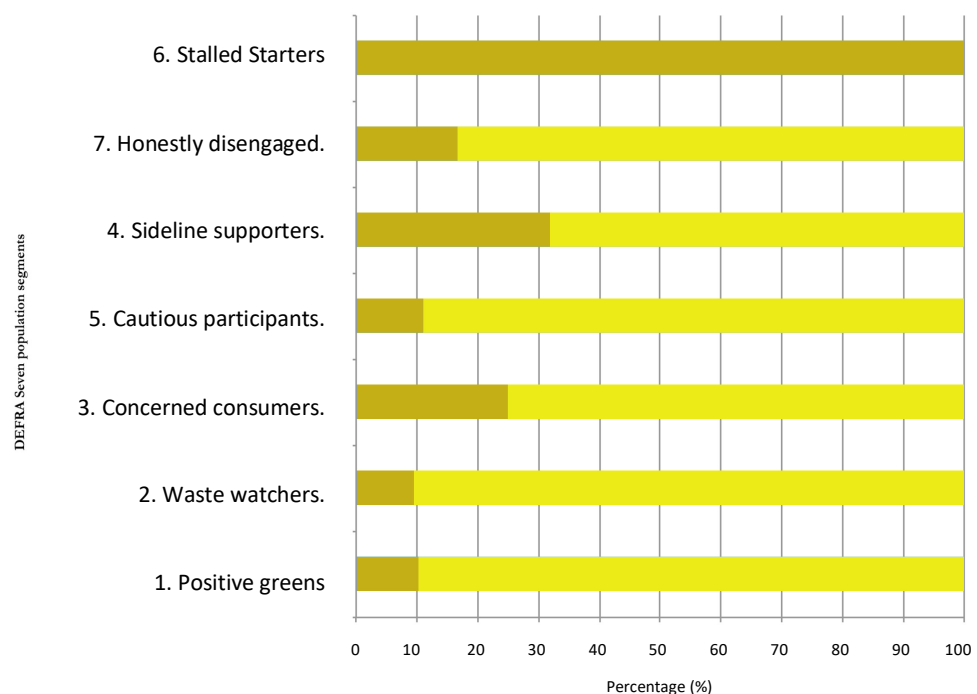


Figure 32. Proportion of menders and non-menders in each DEFRA environmental behaviour group (excluding IDS, count 194).

As can be seen below (see Figure 33 & Figure 34) the majority of the respondents work full or part-time. When the percentages of menders per group were looked at in more detail there was a slightly higher ratio of menders in both the retired and part-time working categories, which is to be expected as they theoretically

have more spare time than the other groups. This difference between the categories is only slight except in the case of students (count of 19) and un-employed people (count of 8) both of which over 30 % are non-menders. Part of this explanation could be down to age, 53 % of the students reported to be in the 16 to 25 age group (which had the highest proportion of non-menders) and the three non-menders in the unemployed category were also 16 to 25.

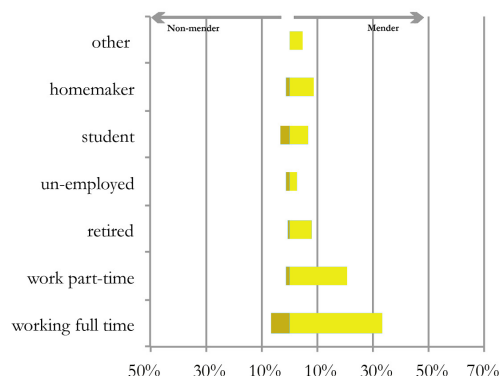


Figure 33. (left) Diagram of employment status (or amount of free-time) in respect to menders and non-menders (excluding IDS count 194).

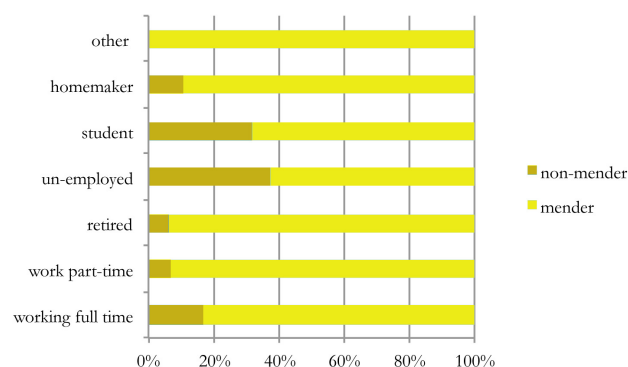


Figure 34. (right) Proportion of menders and non-menders in each category of employment status (excluding IDS count 194).

8.3.4.2 Understanding Mending

This section aims to identify from the responses: who mends clothes, what kind of mending is done, its frequency, and what percentage of their wardrobe is mended?

There is a noticeable difference between the percentage of people who mend their own clothes in the NPS and RS groups (see Table 11 & Table 12). Nearly 90% of the NPS stated that they repaired their own clothes whilst only around 70% of RS did. As can be seen with the IDS removed the data is skewed towards the NPS for people who only mend their own clothes (but tends to straddle the other responses). To simplify the analysis the total without IDS will be used.

Almost 36% of the mending respondents also delegated their mending tasks to family, friends or a local tailor. The majority of garments were mended at home or in the domestic sphere, whilst around 30% of the respondents reported that they used local resources as well as or instead of mending at home. When this was broken down into whose clothes the respondents repaired the majority, 60% repaired theirs and their families. With 22% reporting that they only mended their own clothes.

Who mends your clothes?			
	NPS (count 87) Percentage (%)	RS (count 155) Percentage (%)	Total without IDS (count 194) Percentage (%)
Yourself	88.64	69.94	84
Member of your family	25.00	31.90	27
Dry cleaner	15.91	4.29	9
Friend	1.14	4.91	3
Local tailor	14.77	9.82	10
Repair shop	6.82	10.43	8
No one/ never	1.14	8.59	5
Other	3.41	0.61	1

Table 11. Table to show the percentage of participants who mend clothes (they were asked to pick as many as appropriate).

	Total % without IDS (count 194)
I mend my clothes and the family's	60
I only mend the family's clothes	3
I only mend my clothes	22
I do not mend clothes	15

Table 12. To show whose clothes the respondents mended

< What kind of mending can you do and how often do you do it?

As mentioned before this question was used as the marker to categorise the respondents and branch the following survey questions into: menders (someone who had mended something in the last five years) and non-menders (ones who had not) separating them for further questions²⁷. This was performed by asking the respondents how frequently they had used key mending methods. If a respondent ticked only can or never to each method then they were classed as a non-mender. Whilst to be considered a mender they only had to tick that they had used at least one method in the last five years. It could be argued that the rigour could have been improved as some respondents may have meant that they do mend when they ticked can, therefore the

²⁷ In retrospect splitting the data collection at this point may have augmented the inconsistent data sample as once this question was answered the respondent could not return to previous questions to make changes.

question should have been made more explicit and the option should have been to only be able to tick one box per method²⁸.

65% of the total respondents had re-stitched a button in the last five years and over 40% had patched or darned. Over 80% of the menders (IDS removed) had mended broken stitch work, repaired tears and/or replaced buttons with just under 60% patching, customising and darning (see Figure 35). Interestingly invisible mending which can be an art form in itself to rebuild the weave, or knit of a garment with high skill level had been performed by over 55%.

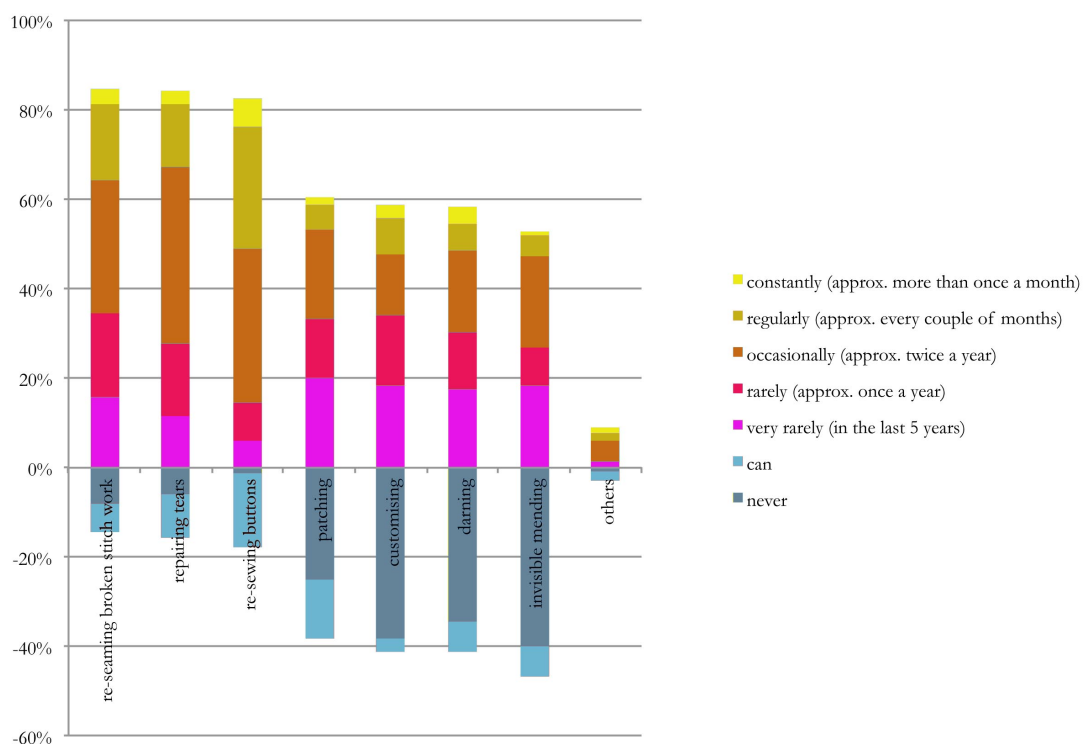


Figure 35. Methods of mending and their frequency (IDS removed).

further mending methods	count
re-hemming	8
re-dyeing	3
refashioning/ reworking	2
making	2
stitching	2
replacing a pocket	1
replacing broken zippers	1
leather work	1
knitting	1

Table 13. Further mending methods used by the respondents.

²⁸ This issue came to light in the random sampling trials – the non-probability sample did not have the same issues with it – changing the questionnaire after the non-probability sample data had been collected would have affected the viability of the study so was not altered.

Several of the respondents used other forms of mending (see Table 13) and some of these methods would have been covered in the original methods, such as re-hemming. In terms of the inconsistent group who said that they did not mend in earlier questions but who had repaired something in the last five years the diagram (Figure 36) shows that a third of these respondents had performed some form of mending such as, patching, repairing tears, re-seaming and darning and 84% of them had mended a button within the last five years, all classic clothes mending techniques. As can be seen the likelihood of using a form of mending is slightly different to the rest of the data. Buttons seem to be re-stitched when required whilst other methods are less likely to be used with darning being the least likely repair. The data for the non-menders also shows that a significant proportion of the respondents have replaced buttons within the last five years (over 50% see Figure 37).

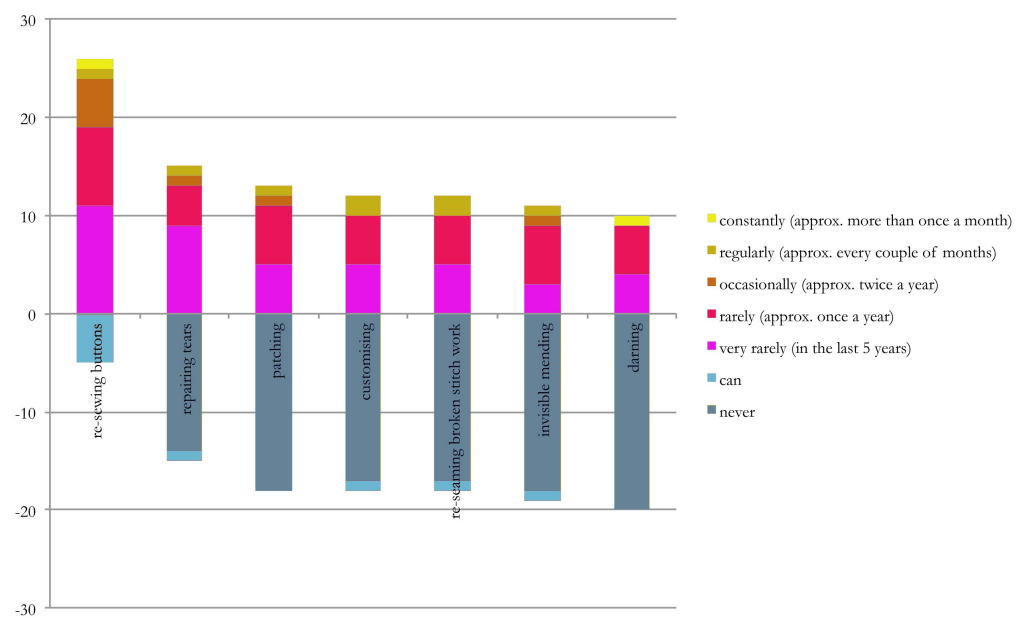


Figure 36. Respondents who said they did not mend yet had repaired something in the last five years (from IDS).

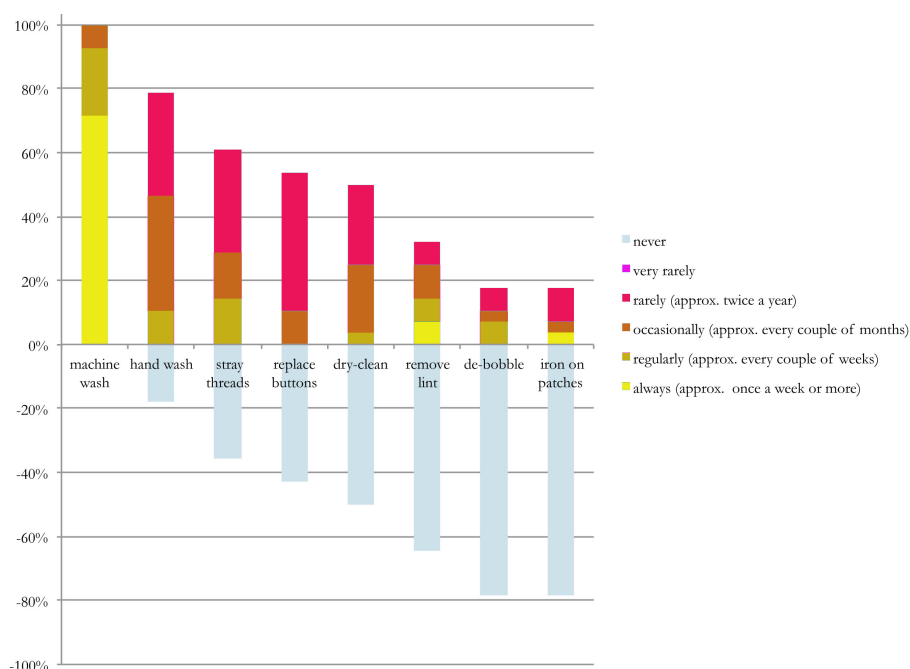


Figure 37. Non-menders frequency of wardrobe maintenance (IDS excluded).

Wardrobe questions

The respondents who mended reported that a fifth of their garments had been repaired at some point and that they would be prepared to do more, approximately double the amount²⁹ (see Table 14), whilst the number of repeatedly repaired garments average was 11, proposing that approximately 7% of their clothes have been repeatedly mended³⁰ (findings from an Marks and Spencer and Oxfam study 2016³¹). These figures for all three questions seem high, suggesting guesstimation and over reporting³²; a relationship that corresponds with data and findings from other wardrobe audits, where a gap was discovered between the reporting data and what the participants physically had (Smith 2013). The data was collected using a sliding scale of 0 to 100, resulting in a large variance in reporting; in order to decipher the data the mean has been taken from each question. These questionable findings could be disproportionably high because the data is only considering menders with the inconsistent responses separated. Therefore, this data is questionable and cannot be used in any key findings

²⁹ As the differences between the random and non-probability sample in this data set are small the data has been grouped together.

³⁰ When looking at the contrast between the menders and the inconsistent menders a huge disparity can be seen, with the percentages reduced roughly by half in comparison to the menders.

³¹ Where the average person has 152 garments in their wardrobe (Oxfam 2016)

³² Overestimations could be down to the fact that we wear around 44% per cent of our clothes regularly (Oxfam 2016) and these regularly worn garments may be more likely to have been mended; implying that the estimation was taken from this small proportion of their garments not the whole.

	Menders	Menders (inconsistent responses)
Percentage (%) of wardrobe mended	21.57	11.41
Percentage (%) of wardrobe would mend	39.57	16.32
Number of garments that have been repeatedly repaired	11	6

Table 14. Wardrobe questions, menders in comparison to inconsistent menders.

When the data was separated into groups it can be seen that for:

- ⟨ Gender: men say they have slightly more mended clothes whilst women say they would be prepared to mend a larger proportion of their wardrobe and yet they have fewer repeatedly repaired garments compared with male respondents (see Figure 38).
- ⟨ Free time: full time workers were more likely to have more repeatedly mended clothes with retired people having the least (see Figure 39).

These findings are only indications of how the participants perceive their wardrobes and cannot be extrapolated without further data collection to substantiate these suggested findings. Basically the data is subjective, and needs more objective quantitative data for verification.

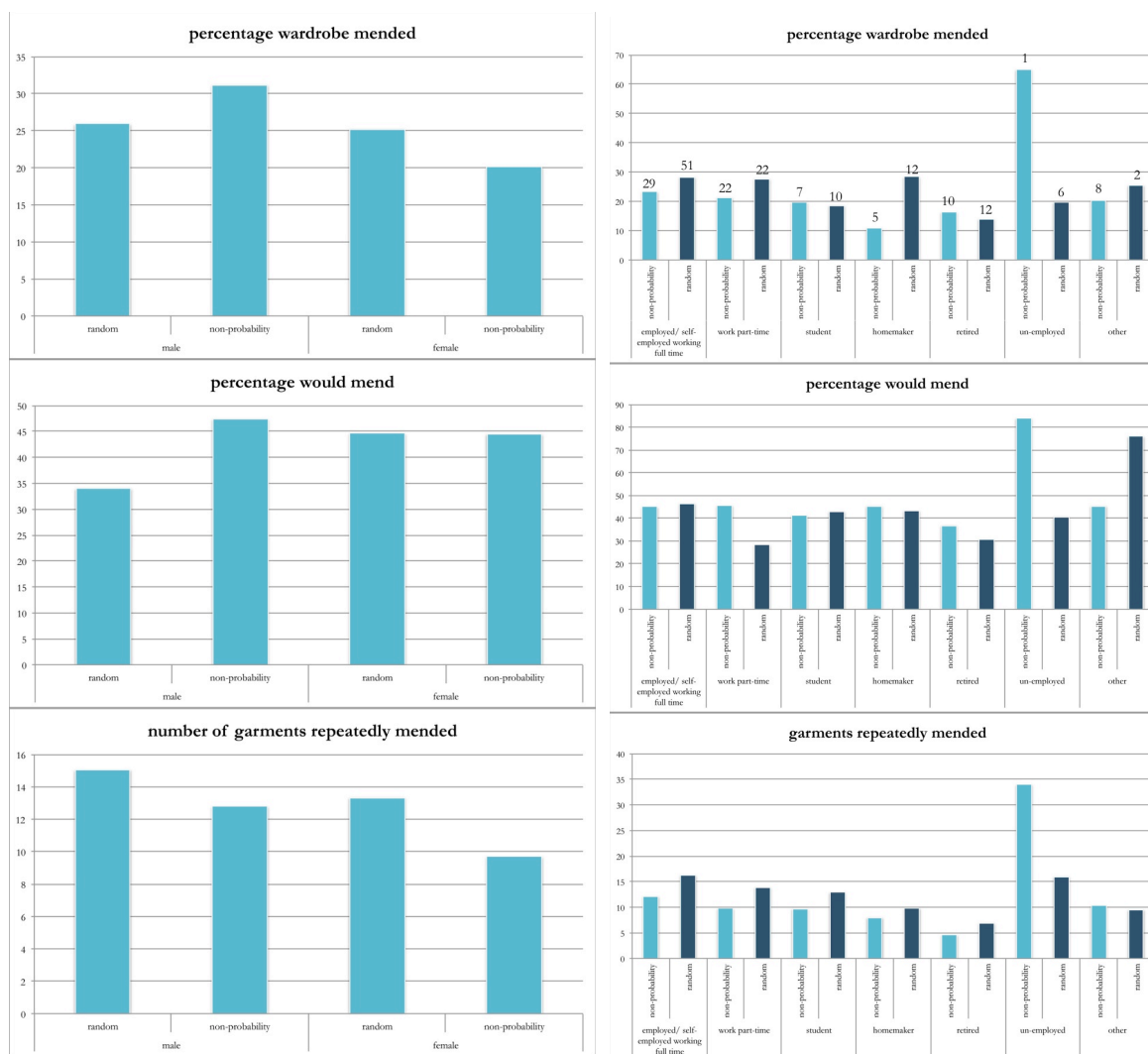


Figure 38. (Left) Wardrobe questions, in comparison to gender.

Figure 39. (Right) Wardrobe questions, in comparison to free time.

The chart below (see Figure 40), shows the primary (top four) pick and rank results from very likely to mend or very unlikely to mend³³. As can be seen free time and necessity seemed the most relevant. However, when the top four rankings for each group were added the findings become more complex. Confidence in mending ability was an important second choice but, a corresponding barrier for other people. This can be seen in the graph depicting the top 4 ranking motivations and barriers to mending, showing that the barriers and motivations are complex and individual. To try and simplify the findings I have listed the key areas that seem to affect the likelihood of mending (ones that at least 30% of the menders have placed in their top four rankings) below:

³³ the diagram with all the rankings becomes difficult to read and it was decided that the top four positive and negative statements per person would elicit more valuable information

Motivations to mend:

- < Necessity
- < Have available materials
- < Ability and knowledge of mending skills
- < Being in the right frame of mind
- < Confidence of mending ability
- < Somewhere comfortable to sew.

Barriers to mending:

- < Lack of free time
- < Societal pressures.

There is then a secondary group of contrasting responses, ones that have similar ratings for both motivations and barriers, of around 40% of menders picking either likely to or unlikely to. These are:

- < Hassle to replace
- < Environmental concerns

Access to mending tutorials and habit (both found to be motivations and barriers towards mending) were not considered to have as much affect as the other statements.

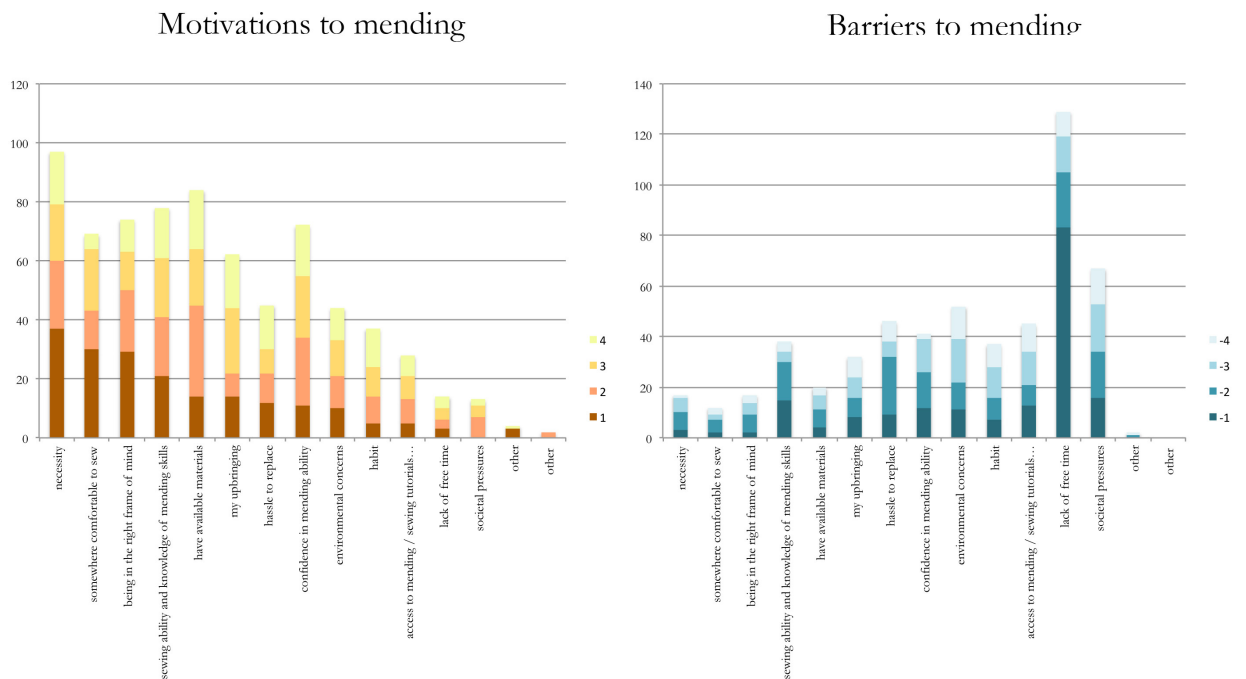


Figure 40. Motivations and barriers to mending (the top four pick and rank results).

8.3.4.3 Understanding Use of Mended Clothing

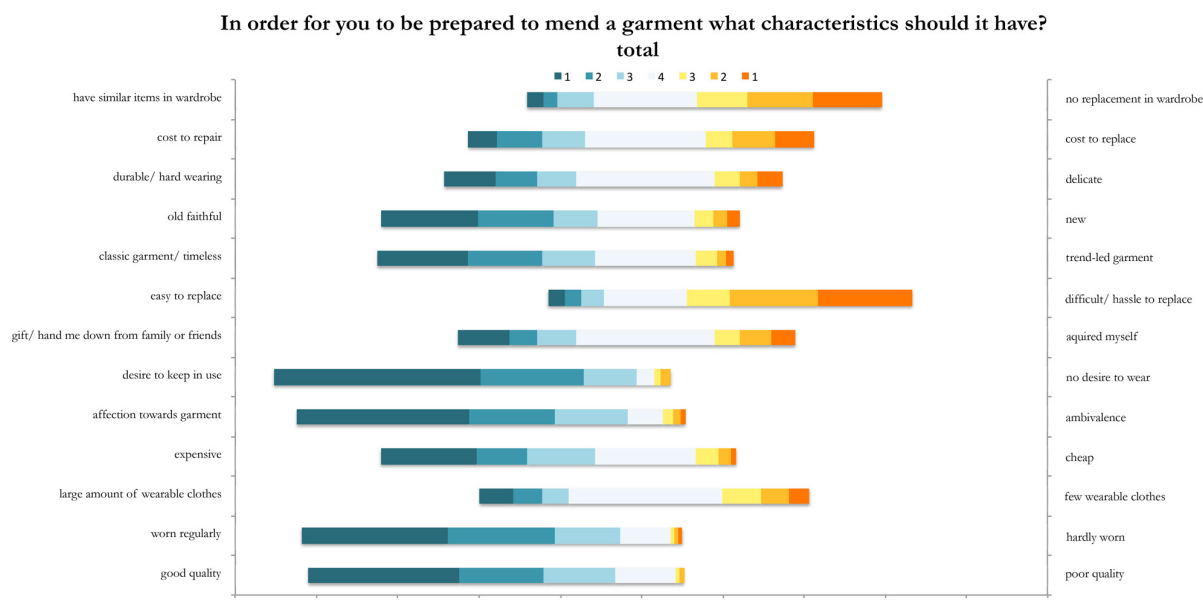


Figure 41. Diagram showing the garment characteristics required to mend clothing.

The results are similar among the non-probability and the random population sample (196 respondents from only the mending branch). In this question the participants were asked to mark how strongly they felt about each contrasting statement. As can be seen (in Figure 41) the data suggests there is no substantial trigger to mend between the following pairs of contrasting statements;

- < the cost to repair versus the cost to replace the garment
- < whether the garment was considered durable or delicate,
- < if it was a gift or acquired personally,
- < and whether they had a large number of garments or few.

The characteristics that seemed important for a garment to be mended are in order of importance (Table 15):

very important Percentage (%)	Key Trigger:		Key Trigger:	very important Percentage (%)
52.04	desire to keep in use		old faithful	27.04
44.39	affection towards garment		expensive	27.04
40.31	good quality		difficult / hassle to replace	26.02
38.27	worn regularly		classic garment/ timeless	25.51
			no replacement in wardrobe	19.39
very important Percentage (%)	Unimportant characteristics:			very important Percentage (%)
15.31	gift/ hand me down from family or friends	V	acquired myself	7.14
14.95	durable/ hard wearing	V	delicate e.g. special occasion piece/ party wear	7.22
10.20	large amount of wearable clothes	V	few wearable clothes	6.12
8.16	cost to repair	V	cost to replace	11.22

Table 15. Table showing the garment characteristics necessary for mending.

The key characteristics needed to mend a garment from this sample were therefore:

- ⟨ Desire to keep in use – life extension.
- ⟨ Affection towards a garment – emotional driver.
- ⟨ Good quality – materiality of garments: practical.
- ⟨ Worn regularly – processes (use practices).

8.3.5 Attitudes Towards Mending and Mended Clothing.

This section discusses the analysis of the mending process mending and behaviours towards mending clothing. It looks at the following survey questions:

- ⟨ *does mending a garment change the way you use a piece of clothing?*
- ⟨ *Views of mended clothes, what does mending mean to you?*
- ⟨ *And the longevity of clothing.*

< Does mending a garment change the way you use a piece of clothing? (mending data set only)

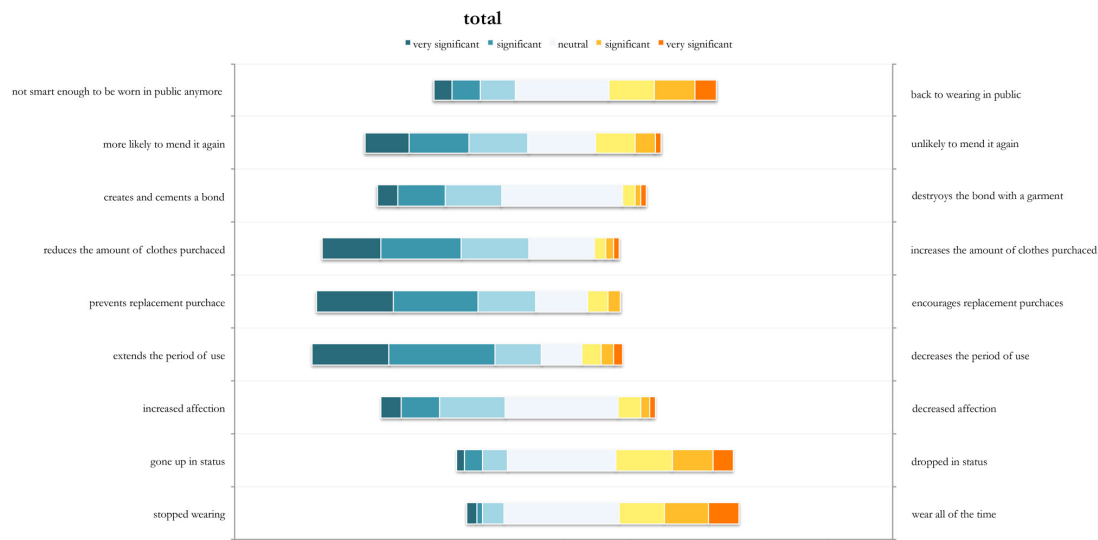


Figure 42. Diagram to show whether mending a garment changes the way it is used.

The respondents were asked to mark how strongly they felt about each contrasting statement in terms of how mending a garment changed the way it was used. As can be seen (Figure 42 & Table 16) the key opinions about the use of mended clothing were material and economic factors, preventing replacement purchases, extending the period of use and reducing the amount of clothes purchased. The emotional drivers were considered not as relevant as only a third of the respondents found mending a garment creates and cements a bond, very important.

Around a quarter of the respondents felt that mended garments were something that they wore all the time. In fact, the respondents had conflicting opinions as to whether mended garments were no longer smart enough to be worn in public or were worn again in public. This suggests that the repair of a garment and the use practices that evolve afterwards are determined by many factors.

Very important Percentage (%)	Key opinions towards use of mended clothing		
25.26	prevents replacement purchase		
24.87	extends the period of use		
19.59	reduces the amount of clothes purchased		
14.95	more likely to mend it again		
11.22	wear all of the time		
7.77	creates and cements a bond		
7.22	increased affection		
7.14	dropped in status		

Very important percentage (%)	Contrasting opinions towards use of mended clothing			Very important Percentage (%)
6.70	not smart enough to be worn in public anymore	V	back to wearing in public	7.73

Table 16. Table showing the key opinions towards the use of mended clothing.

< How do you feel about things you have mended?

The respondents were asked to use a sliding scale (0-100) to show their strength of feelings towards each statement regarding items they had mended. The data from these statements understandably had huge variations and were difficult to visualise using its original form. Therefore, it was determined that using the mean per statement would offer the best method of analysis (see Figure 43). As can be seen the mean does not give us any significant findings, as although most statements give a clear indication of positive or negative feelings towards statements it shows that the respondents feelings towards mended clothes are complex and are difficult to quantify. The strongest statements seem to be that they feel a sense of fulfilment (22.6) about

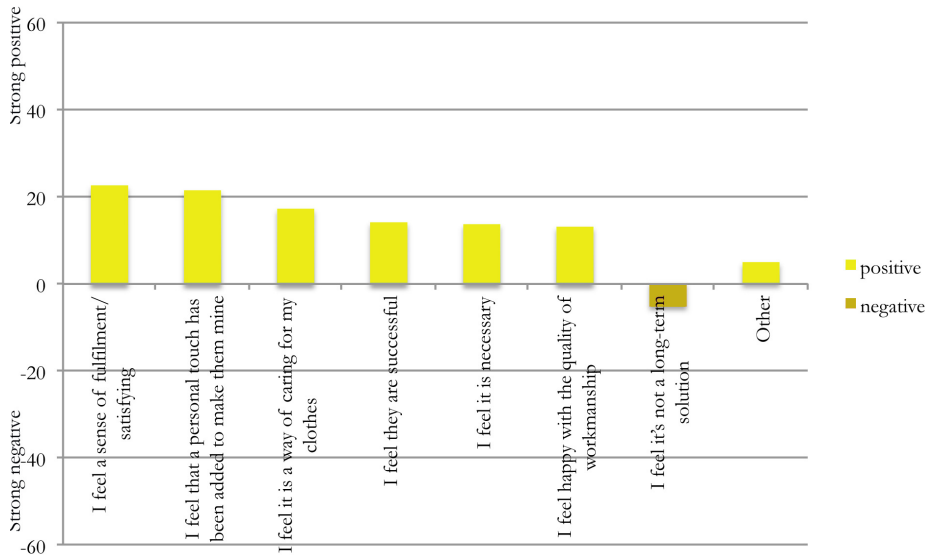


Figure 43. Graph with the inconsistent results removed.

things they have mended and that they have added a personal touch to make them 'mine' (21.5). The other statements included the following which have been split into 3 groups:

Positives around the process of mending

- ⟨ Fun
- ⟨ I enjoy sewing
- ⟨ Proud to have the skill of mending
- ⟨ The work itself is satisfying
- ⟨ If item has lasted well, I feel good about that

Feelings towards the longevity and environmental impact of clothing

- ⟨ Environmental concerns
- ⟨ I feel that its my responsibility to prolong the life of the clothes I buy
- ⟨ I like to fix clothes instead of buying more because I don't agree with throwing things away.
- ⟨ I dislike the way clothing is thrown away once damaged
- ⟨ If an item has deteriorated rapidly and beyond repair, I am quite disappointed
- ⟨ Rescued my clothes
- ⟨ Longer lasting

Last resort

- ⟨ I only mend in desperation
- ⟨ My tailor mends stuff...

< How accurate are the following statements in terms of your view of mended clothes?

In this question the respondents were asked to mark how strongly they agreed with the statements, regarding their view of mended clothes (the data is from both menders and non-menders. Figure 44).

What can be seen in the diagram below is they strongly believe:

- < If it's done well you can't see the repair
- < I can enjoy them for longer
- < It's better for the environment

Whilst they strongly disagreed with the statement: that it means you can't afford to buy new clothes and the following three statements had conflicting responses: they look scruffy, they are alternative and it's too much like hard work.

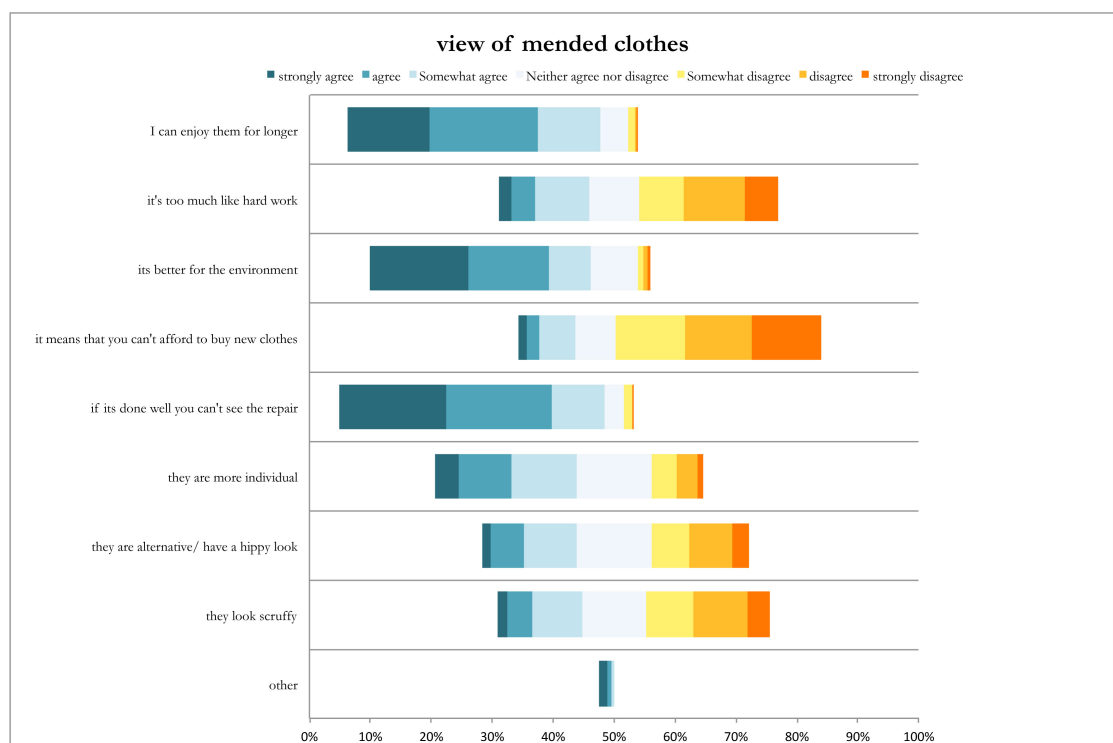


Figure 44. Diagram showing the respondents view of mended clothes.

< What does mending mean to you? (both the menders and non-menders data sets)

The respondents were asked to pick and rank the following statements into strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree (Figure 45). In order to make the analysis simpler, agree and disagree data has been left out, to help illicit findings. What can be seen with the graphs is that the respondents agreed more strongly with the statements than they strongly disagreed, with over 70 respondents ranking the top four strongly agree statements compared to between 30 and just over 40 for the strongly disagree.

These respondents felt that mending represents:

- < Method of reducing the number of garments I purchase and discard (43% menders)
- < Increases the durability of my clothes (42% menders)
- < It is a way of caring for my clothes (34% menders)
- < And it prevents the hassle of buying a replacement (30% menders).

And did not represent:

- < A way of relaxing
- < Part of my day to day ritual of maintaining my wardrobe
- < A last resort
- < Something fun to do.

When this data was looked at in terms of menders and non-menders (Figure 46 & Figure 47) it could be seen that the key statements remained the same for menders, but they had no strong disagreements with the statements other than 'it's a last resort' (which 19% strongly disagreed with). This indicates that the other three negative statements were due to non-menders who did not believe mending is relaxing (29% strongly disagree), fun (32% strongly disagree) or part of their day to day rituals for maintaining a wardrobe (29% strongly disagree) and could this be why they did not mend?

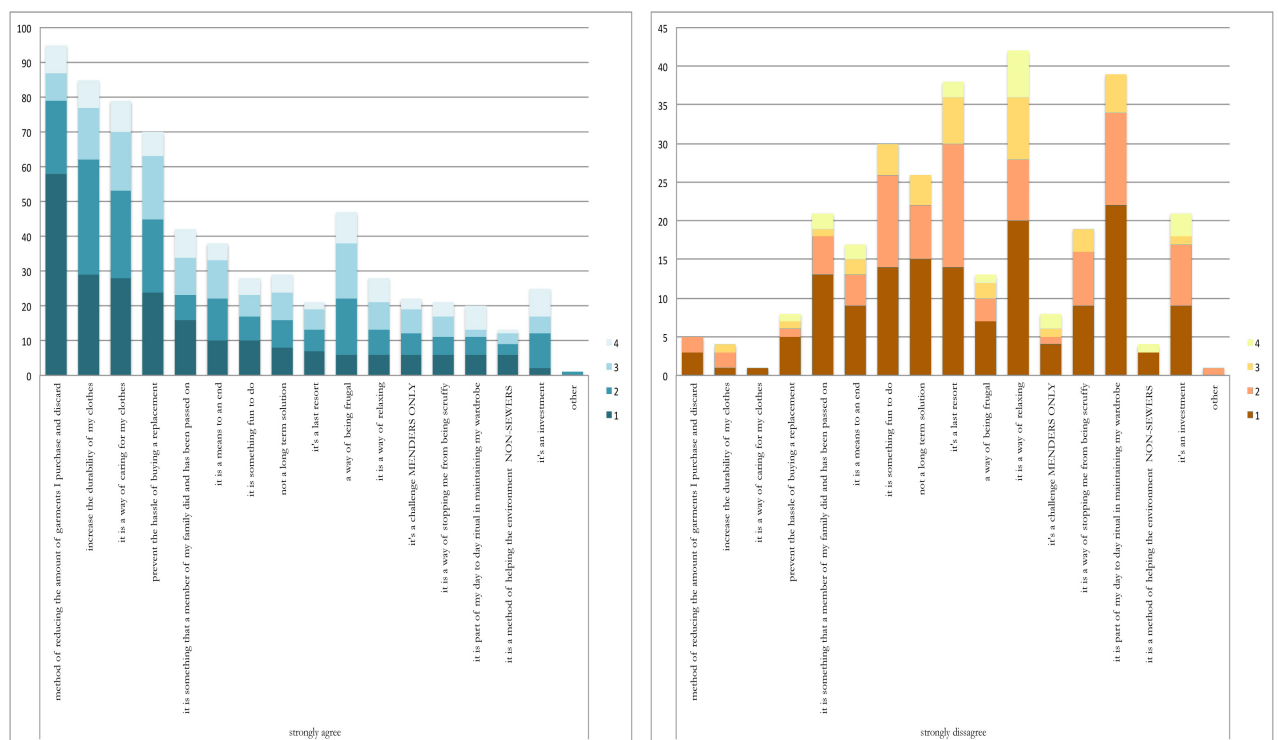


Figure 45. Diagram showing what mending means to the respondents.

In regards to menders there were three statements that had conflicting findings (a similar amount of strongly agree and disagreements). These were a way of relaxing, part of my day to day ritual and not a long term solution. This again provides us with the findings that peoples mending habits are complex and individual.

The question was only asked to the non-mending group and with the IDS removed is only a sample of 28 therefore not viable to be able to gain any useful insights.

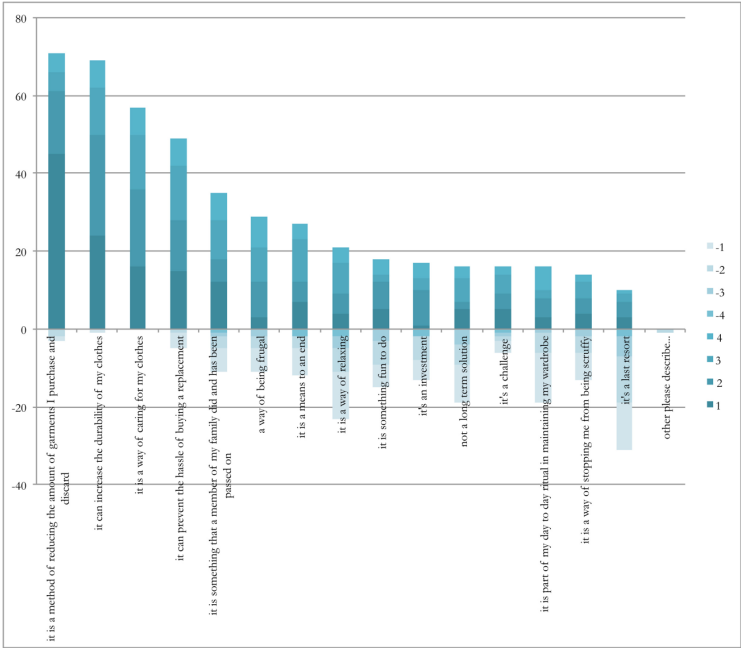


Figure 46. What does mending mean to you? Menders IDS removed.

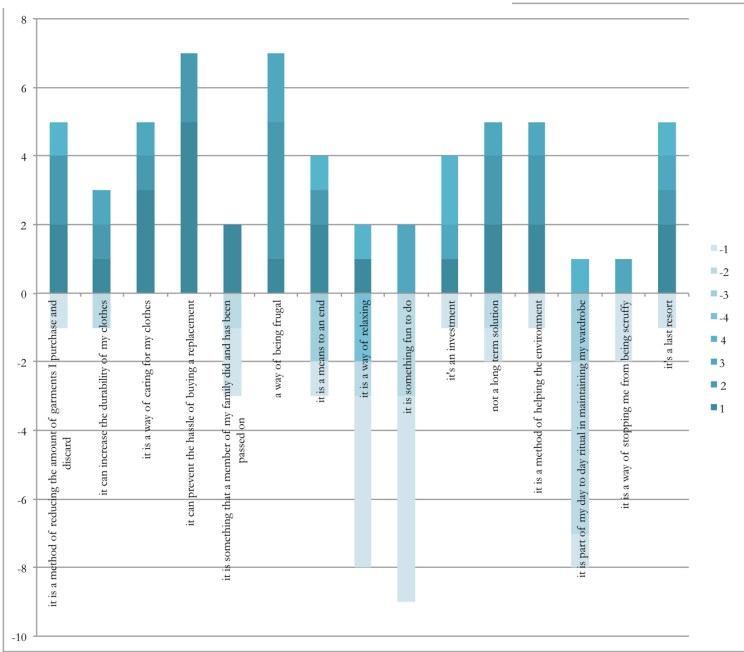


Figure 47. What does mending mean to you? Non-menders IDS removed

8.3.6 Longevity of Clothing

One of the final questions asked was: Do your clothes last as long as you want them to? The chart below shows that around 70% of both menders and non-menders were happy with their clothes longevity (Table 17).

The respondents were then asked to explain why they were happy or unhappy with how long their clothes last. These qualitative responses were coded as the wardrobe interviews. From the coding it was discovered that the themes uncovered for longevity were common against menders, non-menders and positive or negative about their clothing's durability. These themes and commonalities behind the groups will now be discussed (Figure 48).

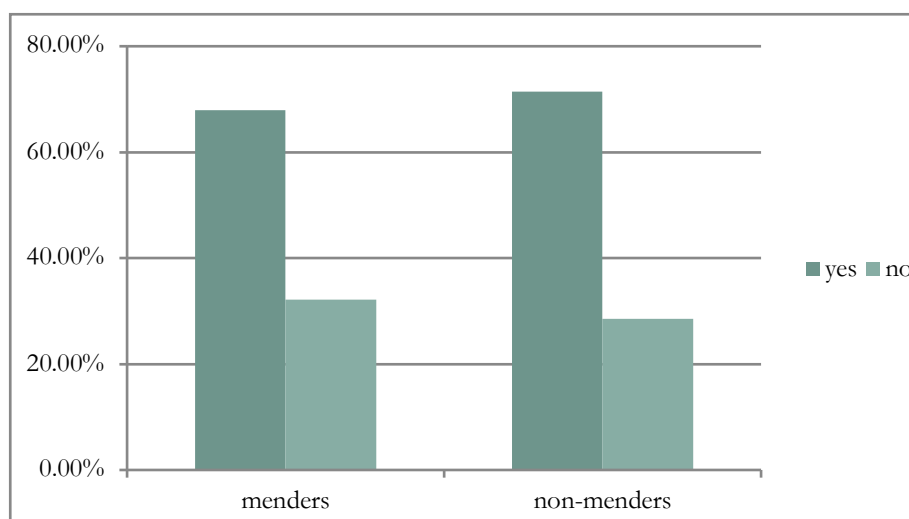


Table 17. Where the respondents happy with the longevity of their clothing (IDS removed)

The most frequent themes were care (76 instances of caring for clothes or looking after clothes to extend their longevity), and quality (70 instances of quality of materials, construction etcetera affecting the durability of a garment). Caring for garments was used by both menders (count of 58 approx. 20% of the sample) and non-menders (count of 16 approximately 20% of the groups coverage) who were happy with their clothing's longevity. Two menders were unhappy with their clothing's longevity stated that they did not take enough care of their clothes. The menders predominantly reported that quality was an important factor in longevity (approximately 6 menders to 1 non-mender): 27 happy with longevity and 31 unhappy with longevity. However, when using the percentage of coverage from each group this can be seen differently (Table 18). It is the respondents who were unhappy with longevity who felt garment quality was an important factor.

A diagram of developing themes relating to longevity was drawn up (Figure 48) It was possible to group the comments into four areas, acquisition, use, expectation and care and maintenance (some had factors that linked with others, these will be addressed identifying their main theme).

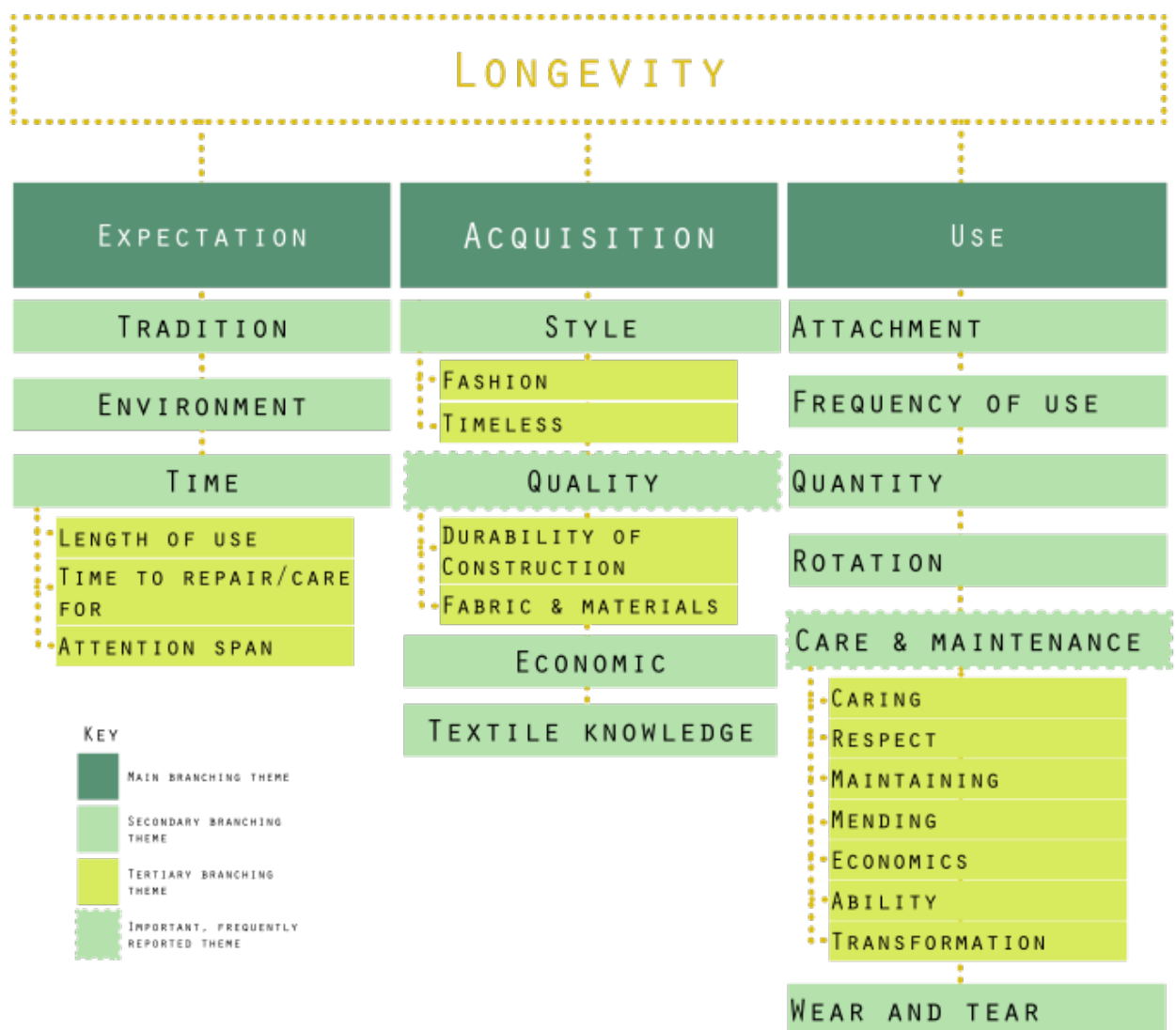


Figure 48. Diagram of themes uncovered from longevity question

Respondents reporting quality as an important factor in clothing longevity	Count	Percentage (%) of groups coverage
Menders happy with longevity (MH)	27	17
Menders unhappy with longevity (MuH)	31	43
Non-menders happy with longevity (n-MH)	6	10
Non-menders unhappy with longevity (n-MuH)	6	43

Table 18. respondents who reported quality as an important longevity factor

8.3.6.1 Acquisition

The analysis of the responses suggested that the behaviours surrounding purchasing durable clothing seemed to be related to the following, style, quality, economics (or cost), and knowledge (ability to identify well-made garments in durable fabrics). These will now be discussed further:

Style

Fashion was mentioned by menders happy with longevity (3 counts - all positive about fashion), unhappy with longevity (6 counts - half positive) and non-menders happy with longevity (2 counts – both negative about fashion, stating that they did not chase trends). On the whole fashion was used when reporting boredom with clothes, changing them regularly or its transient nature. Half of the respondents mentioned fashion positively. One reported: ‘they [clothes] are transient and that is part of their attraction’ (anonymous, mending survey, 2017). Three mending respondents were unhappy with longevity with one reporting that: ‘It doesn't seem worthwhile mending something when fashion becomes dated so quickly’ (anonymous, mending survey, 2017). Yet another made a contrasting statement: ‘Some are difficult to replace as fashion changes.’ (anonymous, mending survey, 2017). This highlights that mending an item would negate the need to replace it once it is damaged. So mending a fashion item could still be beneficial.

Timeless classic pieces, were mentioned by menders (3 counts) and non-menders (2 counts) who were happy with their clothing’s longevity. This was explained by two of the respondents saying that they spend more money on ‘timeless’ good quality items that fit in with the rest of their wardrobe.

Quality

This was the second most frequently used term to explain longevity. Respondents felt that the quality of the initial purchase is tied to the longevity and durability of garments. With the understanding: ‘good quality things last well’ (anonymous, mending survey, 2017). Many of the responses either stated ‘quality’, or that they ‘buy quality’, however about half of them reporting quality mentioned either construction or the materials as a factor affecting the quality:

- ⟨ Construction (23 counts) predominantly from menders unhappy with longevity (15 counts). The respondents commenting on quality who were happy with their garment’s longevity stipulated that clothes were ‘well made’ or ‘stitched properly and well’ (anonymous, mending survey, 2017). Whilst the unhappy respondents felt the opposite and one respondent stated: ‘I don’t think clothes, even medium expensive ones are built to last’ (anonymous, mending survey, 2017).
- ⟨ Fabric, materials (13 counts) predominately from menders unhappy with longevity 11 counts). These respondents felt the material quality affects the garments durability.

Economics and tacit knowledge

To summarise: for items to last prolonged and extensive use the respondents believed that the quality of the garment’s materials and construction should be high. Also that the garment should be designed for timelessness, using classic lines that work with existing pieces in the wearer’s wardrobe. The analysis of the data suggested that the respondents (6) felt the cost of a garment tended to relate to the quality and

consequential durability of an item, more expensive garments were felt to be more durable. One respondent stated that her method for acquiring new clothes was:

'As [learnt] in Home Economics lessons I spend the most amount on a classic style and quality fabric and least on something I know will go out of fashion.' (anonymous mender happy with longevity, mending survey, 2017).

To decide an item is good quality the wearer must have some knowledge of garment construction and materials. Whether it is built purely through user experience of wearing clothing or developed through a more intimate one of repair and mending, assessing the quality of a garment for its function will be personal. One of the respondents mentioned that: 'Sometimes it is hard to discern the quality of fabric and materials when shopping. This is especially true for non-natural fibres.' (anonymous MuH, mending survey, 2017). This suggests that even with some material knowledge developed through use, or mending, these tacit skills might not be enough when evaluating unknown fibres. This is an area where the design and manufacturing industry could implement impactful change, both through thorough fibre testing, wear tests in prototype stages and labelling for the user suggesting a lifespan for the garment as well as the care label.

8.3.6.2 Use practices

The themes discussed by the respondents within use practices were around their attachment to garments, frequency-of-wear, quantity of clothes, rotation of clothes, general wear and tear and care and maintenance.

Attachment

Attachment was only mentioned by the menders (count of 10), also one mentioned that attachment and work performed to care for and mend the item became considered a part of the garment and ensured that it lasts a long time (anonymous MH, mending survey, 2017). The words used tended to be ones of 'favourites', 'cherishing', 'love' and 'attachment'. As discussed in the literature review (thesis 2.5.1) and the wardrobe interviews (see 8.2.10) favourites tend to be worn frequently and garments that the user is attached to may either be worn frequently or rarely to protect the garment from wear or losing associations with people, place and memories. This is highlighted by a respondent: 'I wear favourite items a lot and grow attached to them' (anonymous MuH, mending survey, 2017). Others mentioned the problems associated with favourites and trying to keep them in working order:

'I have favourites that I can't replace' (anonymous MH, mending survey, 2017)

'Sometimes you just love an item of clothing so much that you can only repair it so many times before it's not able to be done any more' (anonymous MuH, mending survey, 2017)

'I love many pieces and they fall apart before I am ready to part with them.'
(anonymous MuH, mending survey, 2017)

This emphasises the shifting relationships with clothing. Wearing a garment changes it, moulding the fabric to the wearer and imbuing it with their essence. Over time this process of wear starts to illustrate the patina of

use such as worn areas of cloth in heavily trafficked areas such as elbows, knees and cuffs. Seams start to come apart at stress points such as under the arms and these initial signs of wear can often be mended without too many changes to the original item. However extensive use over time and many repairs may ensue that the original essence of the garment is lost and the user deems it unwearable or the wear and damage become too great for them to consider it repairable. Although these statements are interesting they do not give any evidence of attachment increasing the longevity of clothing, or that these garments are more likely to be mended.

The relationship between frequency of wear, quantity of clothing and wardrobe rotation

Frequency of wear was stated as a factor in a garment's longevity by all groups (count of 10 with half MH). Seven of the respondents stated that they wore their clothes too often or regularly, two felt that reducing the frequency of wear prolonged the lifespan and one said: 'I get the optimum use of my clothes for as long as I can generally expect.' (anonymous n-MH, mending survey 2017). This method of careful use was identified by Sonya in the wardrobe interviews (see Interview 1. 1st Oct 2013 at 4pm.).

Although only 5 respondents (4 MH and 1 n-MH) reported quantity to affect clothing's longevity. They felt that having many clothes meant you could wear individual garments less often as explored in the frequency of wear. One response was: 'I have so many clothes I rarely wear them out entirely' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017). Whilst another's explanation for their garment's longevity was that they are kept and not disposed of (even if they are no longer worn). Therefore, having garments for a long time does not indicate the timeframe of use and how intensively they were worn.

Rotation of clothing (3 counts MH) to increase a garment's longevity uses the same argument as: occasional use to extend a garment's life and having large quantities of clothing. When these are combined there are 16 counts. Therefore, occasional use and rotating clothes within large wardrobes seem to be accepted methods for preserving items.

'...so maybe they last because I rotate them so much. I rarely ever wear something until it breaks/ gets really worn- just swap it to the back of my wardrobe'
(anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

'I have been able to wear the same garments occasionally, for years and years'
(anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

8.3.6.3 General wear

	frequency	
General wear	Total: 33	5 MH
		19 MuH
		3 n-MH
		6 n-MuH

Table 19. General wear of clothing as an important factor in longevity.

Of the 33 respondents citing wear and tear as a factor in clothing's longevity (Table 19):

- 13 stated that they wore garments, to their limits. An example is: 'I wear (and repair) items until they really fall apart' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).
- And 17 that general wear and tear affect wear-ability: 'general wear and tear, or catch/snag/scratch it on something, or stain it' (anonymous MuH, mending survey 2017). With some of the respondents mentioning that the wear can become beyond their capacity to repair:

'wear and tear which cannot be disguised' (anonymous MuH, mending survey 2017).

'They get too much of that 'worn look' and I can't really do anything about it.'
(anonymous n-MuH, mending survey 2017).

- Two mentioned that items were no longer considered wearable before they were ready to stop wearing them.

General wear and tear and becoming unusable before a garment's time suggests that improving mending skills, and increasing the acceptability of visible repairs could increase the likelihood of mending even heavily worn items. Therefore, easy access to materials, tuition and affordable local services could possibly improve mending uptake and the likelihood of performing more complex repairs. As evidenced by a mender who does not feel capable of repairing:

'Trousers legs wear through quickly and haven't found a good way of mending them'
(anonymous MuH, mending survey 2017).

The care and maintenance group was large and could be split further and is explained in the next section.

8.3.6.4 Care and maintenance part of use practices

Although in the literature review care and maintenance is often written as an overarching term which describes looking after clothes (Gwilt 2014) the word ‘care’ or ‘looking after’ was used much more frequently than ‘maintaining’ (see below Table 20). This suggests that the respondents felt ‘caring’ was sufficient to describe the care and maintenance of clothing especially as the meanings of the terms overlap. Care and maintenance were often reported without any explanation, as to what they meant. However, when they were: washing, following care instructions, storing, ironing, de-pilling, trimming loose threads and mending were mentioned. The most common reporting was for mending and washing, suggesting that the respondents believed these most directly affected a garments longevity (see Figure 49).

	frequency	
Care and maintenance	Care Total: 76	56 MH
		2 MuH
		16 n-MH
	Maintained: 30 (such as washing, following care instructions)	16 MH
		6 MuH
		6 n-MH
		2 n-MuH

Table 20. Care and maintenance as an important factor in longevity

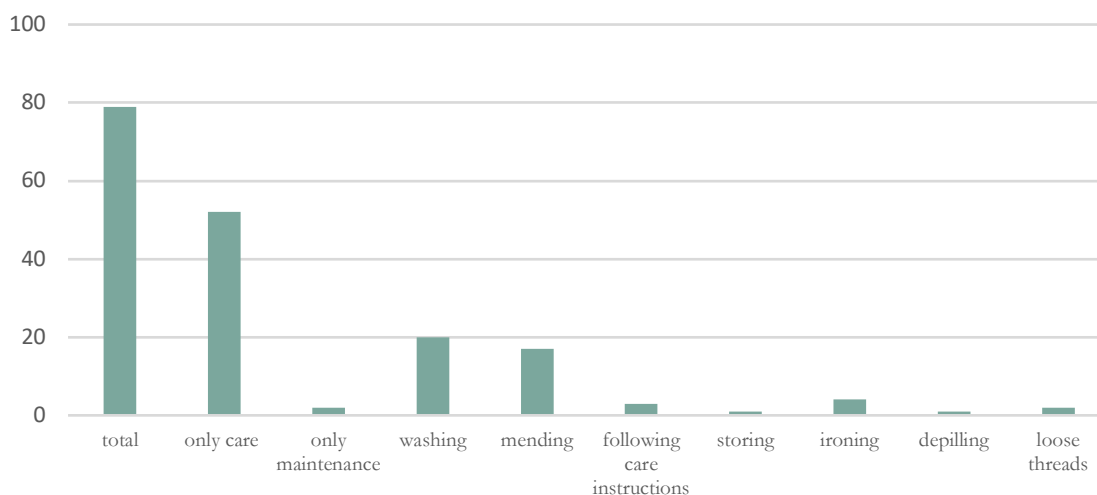


Figure 49. Attributes important within care and maintenance for longevity

An example of a detailed account of how a respondent makes their clothes last:

'They last well because they are washed, dried, ironed and stored away with care. If a button needs replacing (or re-sewing on) then this is done following the washing and drying cycle.' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

8.3.6.5 Frugality

A few of the respondents felt that frugality affected a clothing's longevity such as:

I usually used them to their limit. I rarely dispose of clothes that are not heavily used.' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

'To try and reduce waste', was another comment whilst a third respondent replied:

'I can't remember the last time I got rid of anything, aside from cutting up extremely old t-shirts to use as cleaning rags. [E]verything else gets mended or refashioned, or else stored away for a future day when I might want to wear it again.' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

8.3.6.6 Mending

Mending was reported by 33 of the respondents as an important aspect for clothing longevity. Part of mending and caring for a garment was fixing a problem as soon as it arose to prevent further damage (count of 7). Eight reported mending ability as a factor of which 5 were positive stating that could mend well and three were negative, reporting that they did not have the skills or capabilities they would like. This suggests that 5 in 8 of the respondents were happy with their mending ability and had sufficient skills for the mends they require. However, for the respondents who were not happy with their sewing ability it might mean that wear and damage requiring more complex repairs are not performed and this is the point where garments are considered unusable.

Another aspect of mending reported on was transforming or changing a garment (count of 9 MH). The examples for giving them new lives were either through:

- < altering them 'to stay current and fresh'
- < downgrading them as Lucy from the wardrobe interviews (see Interview 6, 25th Oct 2013 at 4:30 pm.), they:

'Start as work clothes, become casual clothes then gardening or DIY clothes.' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

- < Or refashioned into something new, then when all lives have been exhausted a garment finally becomes rags.

8.3.6.7 Expectation

The data suggested that 29 respondents felt that expectations were an important factor in assessing a garment's longevity (predominantly MH count of 18). Such as the garment's anticipated lifetime in terms of its durability and quality, or how the respondents affect it through care and mending:

'I'm the one who decides when something is simply too worn out to continue wearing, and this happens very seldomly because I take good care of my clothes and repair them as needed.' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

These expectations can be split into the following areas tradition, environment and time and will be discussed further:

8.3.6.8 Tradition

These habits or traditions were ones developed through repeated observations and taking part in family members' clothing rituals such as:

'good enough for my parents, good enough for me' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

'I was brought up by a fashion designer who taught me that every piece of clothing can have a long life, and can have multiple lives, in fact -- she was (and still is) forever turning clothes into new items, jumpers into hats, I have bits of my dad's old jumper as patches on my jumper, etc, etc. So, in the end, mending for me is a very natural and very obvious choice for living and consuming.' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).

These quotes show how important other people's (family and close friends) routines are in habit formation. How their values, beliefs and practices shape a person's own wardrobe practices and whether they mend clothes to extend a garment's longevity.

8.3.6.9 Environment

As discussed in the wardrobe interviews mending does not seem to be directly influenced by environmental beliefs. However mending clothing itself seems to lead towards more environmental use practices with clothing (such as buying fewer clothes, wearing items for longer). Of the respondents only three indicated the environment was important in regards to longevity. One used the environment as a benefit to their clothing and mending practices whilst another addressed it as 'trying to build a sustainable wardrobe' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017). And the third has become 'a slow fashion advocate' (anonymous MuH, mending survey 2017).

8.3.6.10 Time

This theme can be split into three:

- ⟨ length of use (or expected useable life). In this theme the respondents mentioned that clothes are not expected to last as long as they used to, that they normally 'last many years as I look after them' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017) or that they 'usually last long enough and even longer'
- ⟨ the time to repair (or look after). Some respondents mentioned that they 'take time to care for my clothing' (anonymous MH, mending survey 2017).
- ⟨ and the transient nature of fashion (or low attention span with material goods)

8.3.6.11 Summary

- ⟨ the longevity of clothing seems to have two important themes that affect length of use: quality and care. With two sub themes connected to use and care: wear and mending.
- ⟨ The comments to this open-ended question were varied and showed that clothing longevity is affected by many factors within the main themes of expectation, acquisition and use.
- ⟨ Caring for a garment seems to cover a raft of practices such as use, laundering and mending.
- ⟨ The respondents felt that mending quickly prevented further damage and transformed garments to keep them in use either through change in function, restyling, giving them a new life, using them to repair other garments or cutting them up as rags.

8.4 Macclesfield Repair Day & Restart and Repair Mending Workshop

8.4.1.1 Macclesfield repair day 2014.

Notes on recording

Talking about felting with locals...

Do you mend things normally?

Conversation

1. Not really I don't have time. I will hem trousers but anything else I'll take to be mended.
2. Most of the time I do, I don't buy new stuff... generally would buy more expensive things so they don't wear away as much. Knit anyway so... I do patching mainly like jeans and things like that – so patch jeans and you can get so much stuff now with interesting patches and things like that. Talking about felting- I've never seen that kind of mending before its really cool. Then go into how you could do it. I buy from charity shops most of the time any way and am on the look out for stull that lasts longer. Because there's now a love clothes hate waste website like the love food hate waste... consumer society has been designed around throwing things away – convenience.
3. Guy mended a moth hole in his jumper- will you do it again? Yes if I find something that I like. Buts it just finding the right cotton and stuff like that.

Talking about other repair days in London only doing electronic repairs. And whether they could run it again and where.

Discussing different ways of buying clothes, carboot sales... vintage flea markets and stuff.

The fact that selling things on ebay could just encourage you to keep things/ horde as you never get to the point of putting it on/ or selling it.

How do you express your anti capitalism? Do you mend things/ fix them?

try and live in a sustainable way, how do you live?

Try to walk a lot

The questionnaire only interview:-

What are the barriers to mending?

Sometimes just not knowing how to approach it, especially if it's from something that's been beautifully, professionally made I look at it and say well I can't compete with that.

Is it to do with skills?

Yes, lack of...

Do you extend life of clothes, how?

Might jazz them up a bit or alter them in some way. In the past... if it's a plain dress put a patterned border round the bottom, replaced different coloured buttons...

Garments that have altered

Dresses skirts.. cardigans done herself.

How often would you mend something

2 to 3 times a year.

What do you think to items that have been mended?

I love them a bit more, [...] because they've got a personal touch to them, a bit of me has gone into them. The creative process I reckon'.

What do clothes mean to you?

Most of my clothes are from charity shops... (just not her underwear) but everything I have on today is from a charity shop.

Age... very last one.

.....

Implications of living in a non-consumer way, but it will lead to a different economic system it will lead to zero growth policy. You cannot have growth with finite resources. How do you do that? So bring out the make do and mend...

Think you can pass it on to kids, your methods for consuming clothing. – buy things from charity shops and then realises she doesn't like it so takes it back and then gets something else.

.....

a lady has started turning the collars.

She feels that shirts were designed to give women work

8.4.1.2 Restart And Repair Workshop (The Goodlife Centre)

Restart and repair workshop:

Understanding design enables you to create bespoke solutions through repair, alteration and repurposing.

She is using bespoke, bespoke-ing as repurposing/ customizing

Why did you set it up?

'Because I could see the skills gap growing, so if I opened an independent learning centre which had no entry requirements and where every course was for absolute beginners she could lure people in to explore and gain that feeling of creation'.

'Had been teaching carpentry... trained in wood metal, ceramics... an all round materials and processes'

'Started as a wood turner then worked at Tiffany's'

...

People brought all kinds of things to be repairs, a phone, cabinet, chairs, Christmas jumper – lights, gramophone...

.....

'A lot of people don't know how to thread a needle properly'.

An upholsterer

'People tend to walk away something if they don't know how to do it.'

-one of his friends made him sew on name labels onto all of her children's clothing when ever they came round for dinner.

They've fixed bags and shoes –rather unpleasant.

She thinks the glue gun is one of the most amazing inventions. And are great for mending sneakers.

'There's something very, very satisfying about having something repaired'

'Found a bit of darning wool to mend holes from moths in a cashmere jumper.'

'Rinse out jumpers in lavender water'

'Need to understand what it is and then prevent things – that effective repairs are part of taking care of your stuff.'

'That people don't know how to look after natural fibers.'

'The fact that wrap is saying that they don't have any data on mending and repair and the circular economy. – not enough research about what people do with their stuff '

'Twisted twee – does iron on moths'

8.4.1.3 Short Questionairre About Mending 1. Restart And Repair

from the Goodlife Centre 2014:-

why have you come to the repair cafe this afternoon?

have something to repair and I don't know how to.

how did you find out about the goodlife centre?

Doing a course at the centre at present.

what have you brought to mend today?

a gramophone.

How do you feel about what you have brought in, and why do you want to repair it?

someone left it out on the street.

how did you feel when repairing the item?

great!

how sucessful was this repair?

very sucessful

how do you feel about what you have mended today and how do yuo think your relationship with it has changed?

It will get a new lease of life, and I will get to enjoy it.

what do you find are the main barriers to mending and repairing garments?

I need to learn how to sew.

How do you extend the life of your clothes?

have them mended

what garments do you do this to?

special occasion

smart

casual day / evening

what type of garments would you do this to?

trousers

jackets

how do you do it?

member of the family

do you ever mend your clothes?

no

what level of sewing skills do you have?

none

what do you think to mended or transformed clothes?

great!

what do clothes mean to you?

they used to mean much more that they do now.

are you male or female?

female

what is your age group?

40 -44

what is your job title?

Analyst

8.4.1.4 Short Questionnaire About Mending 2. Restart And Repair

from the Goodlife Centre 2014:-

Why have you come to the repair cafe this afternoon?

To find out more about the cafe, and to try to get my 1980's clock radio repaired.

How did you find out about the goodlife centre?

Via restart, which I had already heard about.

What have you brought to mend today?

Clock radio, Sony.

How do you feel about what you have brought in, and why do you want to repair it?

I have a lot of sentimental attachment to it, but it is also an object which I would like to keep and use.

How did you feel about mending it?

It felt satisfying and right.

How successful was the repair?

Very successful

How do you feel about what you have mended today and how do you think your relationship with it has changed?

I love it again.

And will you use these skills again?

Definetly, I will be trying to learn how to solder now.

What do you find are the barriers to mending and repairing garments?

Time

Lack of skill

And right fabric/ cotton colour.

Do you extend the life of your clothes?

Yes

How do you extend the life of your clothes?

Replacing buttons

Sewing up small holes

Reseaming the hem of trousers if they come undone.

What kind of garments do you do this to?

Workwear

Evening

Special occasion

Smart

Casual day/ evening

What type of garments would you do this to?

Trousers

Jackets

Coats

Skirts

Shirts

Dresses

How do you do it?

Myself

Dry cleaner

Do you ever mend your clothes?

Yes

What kind of mending can you do? and do you do?

Repairing tears - do

Resewing buttons - can - do

Patching - can - do

Re-seaming broken stitchwork - can -do

How often would you say you mended something?

Darning - rarely

Repairing tears - rarely

Slight alterations in size - never

Shortening - never

Invisible mending - never

Re-sewing buttons - occasionally

Patching - rarely

Re-seaming broken stitchwork - occasionally

Major alterations - never

Lengthening - never

Customising - never

What type of garments do you mend?

Trousers

Jackets

Coats

Shirts

Dresses

How does mending or repairing make you feel?

Good to have kept the item and kept it in use.

What level of sewing skills do you have?

Average

What do you think of mended or transformed clothes?

I think they are great, and necessary

What do clothes mean to you?

A lot, practically and for style too.

Female

40-44

Garden designer

8.5 Historical Primary Research

8.5.1 Bath Fashion Museum.

30 May 2013.

Pink men's breaches. (Part of a suit). BATMC 11.24.7 A
1780-1790.

Description:-

Breaches in a pink silk, the fabric is constructed in a horizontal weave.

Looking only at the back:

The crotch shows signs of additional parts at the centre back seam panel from the waist to 33.5cm along the crotch seam.

There is fine silk hand embroidery in a floral design at the hem.

There are crude eyelets at the CB.

There are obvious signs of staining at the crotch and the lower trouser leg.

The back yoke addition is hand sewn using matching thread in two colours.

There are needle marks on the silk. Showing signs that parts of the garment have been unpicked and re-sewn. And a second seam on the left shows that the trousers might have been extended further.

There are three different lining fabrics:

- Twill at the CF opening (the popening is similar to sailors trousers).
- A woven canvas which is slightly slubby at the waistband and the binding.
- Rough canvas at the CB yoke pockets and the hem plackets.

The buttonholes at the waist band have the pink showing through with the tan of the stitches on top. Wheras in other areas the button holes have been stitched with the lining suggesting that the waist band is a secondary addition.

Deduction:-

The cuffs show signs of enlargement.

The waistband and pockets of repair/ replacement. Need to go into the centerback being enlarged.

Salmon pink

Well worn and stained

Very delicate – almost a child's to a man size? – dissuaded by the museum staff.

The additions are rougher stitches a bit more naive. Some more so than others giving me the impression that some parts were done in haste or by another person without the same level of sewing skills, some of the amendments seem almost unfinished.

Speculation:-

Everything points to the fact that the garment was mended and let out/ enlarged are the wearer grew in size over the years or was remodelled to fit another wearer.

- possibly even the side seams have been let out, on the right by 1.8cm to nothing at the waistband and 2cm on the left side.

And at the crotch by approximately 8mm (4mm either side).

But it may have been much smaller because of a crease mark and threads along the crease –so a pleat/ tuck.

The cuff embroidery is a different colour and also goes to the selvedge so could be an addition/ moved from another area.

Bodice, and skirt with panels. circa 1471.

Cut up and reformed / crude amendments.

-the skirt is showing signs of addition of habaïl silk for repairs/ mending and pieces of fabric that have been pleated.

Showing signs of repair/ alterations and restyling almost as if it has been left – that a project was envisaged with it but not finalised.

A lot of the metal embroidery has worn away from the woven silk.

The garment gives over a sad impression of something that has lost its prime that the last person who wore it did not have the same level of skills and gave up – forgot about it in the mending pile.

There are various bits of darning on the under arm.

Skirt panel:

1x large panel longer than the skirt gathered.

2x smaller squares of fabric

and a medium one gathered as well.

The habatai silk goes round most of the dress – not the front panel though – possibly reworked pieces for jacket – had an overlapping top layer?

That has since been lost/ altered used for something else or is one of the panels – it could always be the longer piece.

The fastenings may be newer additions- need to look at what fastenings were available at the time.

Pink stockings.

-knitted with an intricate design.

3x colours of darning stitch.

Cream

Salmon pink

And a pinky red.

The cream has been used 3 times, on the toe, heel and the top of the stockings on the other leg.

The salmon pink (12x darns) was used for larger darns but not as extensively as the red and the salmon does not seem to be as neat in places as it is covering large darns/ ladders / holes.

Red this has been used in the largest profusion a total of 26 darns have been made in this colour. Begging the question as to whether this thread was used again and again, as I doubt that the wearer or her maidservant would have let the stockings to get into such a state to need all 26 darns in one go. With this thread larger areas have been darned and also protective stitches have been used.

Purple stockings 622.

These have not been mended as much – well they have not been mended all over as the first pair, the darns have been predominantly made at the toe and the heel. – the wearers are different, so possibly different ways of wearing them or that one was harder than the other.

The threads that have been used to darn the stockings are of different thicknesses .

From the first examination 5x different coloured yarns have been used.

Pink in a fine thread.

Purple in a medium weight yarn

Brown x2 in a lighter and darker colour again medium eight.

And grey a medium eweight.

It is difficult to be able to decide which darn was the first – unfortunately I didn't turn them inside out.

Probably the pink then the purple and then the others. Some of the seams at the cb of the stockings have also been restitched.

In comparison between the two stockings although the pink is more profusely mended – all over the purple infact seems to have had heavier work done, with more substantial mending.

Making you wonder whether they were worn for longer as they were a simpler style so more everyday also I think that the pink ones are possibly finer so more prone to laddering.

Both were reinforced knitted that the toes and the heels.

8.5.2 The Museum of London: Visit 2/5/13.

Unfortunately the photographs taken during the primary research are not allowed to be used without permission in the thesis.

16th Century Sailors slops. (1600-1640, bought in 1933? Pos 53) 53.101/1a + b.

- the provenance was decided from paintings of sailors from this era and the visibility of the tar like substances on the garment.
- The exciting details about this garment is that the likelihood that the sailor mended and mended the garments himself, during the long crossings using whatever material he had to hand.
- Overall the stitching is neat and there are signs of creativity as some of the patches are then cutaway when they are fraying to show layers underneath. But there are signs of quick heavy woollen threads being used at times, possibly when in a hurry.

Top- front and back.

- It is almost as if the body is the only original bit.
- You can see that it has been repaired again and again as there are different levels of threads and the fabrics are different colours, textures and weights.
- All added fabrics are woven, (there is some fine mesh that is protecting the damaged fabric on the cuff that has been added by the museum; an old conservation technique).
- Collar is cut in 2x pieces and stitched on. I am not sure whether there was a seam originally or not.
- The back is almost identical to the front.

*Trousers front and back.**Front.*

- The trousers have been repaired repeatedly.
- The pleats have been undone to add portions of newer fabric, and then re-stitched together.
- Repaired panels are stitched and turned away to re-show the original panels that are still ok or have pieces stitched behind it.
- There is a new gusset.

Back

- Sometimes the pleats have been sewn closed so that the patches could be added- this is often on the back.
- The stitches used were; whipping stitch, herringbone.
- The techniques are varied. With some of the tears being stitched in invisible stitch.
- The cotton tape has been added by the museum for hanging purposes in a historical archival procedure.

Bodice. (1905-1915)

- mended in the boning, and looks like the boning panels have been added and changed. Also the boning has been shortened. Would have to look at this in relation to the trends of the time.
- The cotton binding from the top has been removed, the leather tops added and then re-stitched.
- New garters have also been attached.

Cream fine cotton voile printed dress- 1810. 49.2316

- a very fine cotton almost muslin print.
- There are signs of different hem lengths/ embroidery threads/ lace at the hem that has been removed.
- It also looks like a tear has been repaired by adding a panel to the right hand side when worn.
- Repeated darning techniques and patches behind in heavier thread than the original. The patches seem to be in a lighter weight muslin, but the yarn is not as fine.
- Cotton piping when lost has turned into pin tucks, there are lots of repairs at the cuffs, and the arms showing multiple repairs.
- Also different muslins have been used for the backings, including different thread colours and weights. Again it seems like the owner has used whatever is available at the time.
- There is also lots of mending at the empire line as if it has been ripped when treading on the hem.
- There are sweat stains under the arms.
- From looking at the garment I am not sure if the empire line has been lengthened or shortened.
- It also shows signs of patching/ altering at the u/arm.

Red maternity dress. 1940-45 (2nd World War rationed clothing).90.163/9

- the label says: CC 41 W210 A
- it's a red work dress, with stains on the front.
- a waist tie that can adapt to suit the body and the button front so that you can nurse in it.
- looks like the darning has been done with the original thread, to cover the moth holes.
- there are patches under the arms from the back.

Black dress in mourning crepe. 1939-40

- pleated, so looks synthetic.
- -basically the whole dress has been altered in an untidy manner.
- But the stitch lines are doubles, so one line and then the next.
- So the hem has been altered.
- The cuffs have been shortened as you can see that there used to be 3x buttons at least.
- The a/hole has been done and the waist seam and the front detail. So the sleeve made thinner and the neckline altered.
- So the garment has either been made to fit someone smaller or has been totally altered in a crude way.
- However the pleats at the from shoulder look original.