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## Vintage Trail

Showcasing vintage  
& vintage inspired  
places across the city



2015 Edition

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# Welcome

**Welcome to the first ever Edinburgh Vintage Trail Brochure. This short guide highlights the range and high quality of our vintage and vintage-inspired retailers.**


**Keep reading to discover more about the variety of shops, bars, cafes & clubs – some well-known, some a well-kept secret – that make Edinburgh such a wonderful place to visit or to stay.**

We've kept our definition of vintage as inclusive as possible but, rest assured, the places in this brochure are all individual and unusual – and well worth a visit. We've included some handy maps too, to help plan your time and provide you with details of how to get around.

No matter whether you call it vintage, retro, pre-loved or upcycled - or even all of those – there's somewhere in Edinburgh that'll make your day.

I'm also delighted that, as part of our support to help build stronger town centres, we've managed to focus on areas beyond the City Centre. So get out and explore – whether it's Edinburgh's seaside at Portobello, the charms of Stockbridge or the delights of the Grassmarket – and create your own vintage trail.

I hope you enjoy this brochure & find it useful. Thanks to Fizzy Light Design, Public Information Services and, most of all, to all of our independent retailers for their support and assistance. If you've any comments or suggestions for our next edition, drop us a line at [edinburghsvintage@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghsvintage@gmail.com)

  
**Cllr Frank Ross**  
**Convenor, Economy Committee**  
**City of Edinburgh Council**

**All information correct at July 2014.**

**Please check before visiting for opening hours, etc.**

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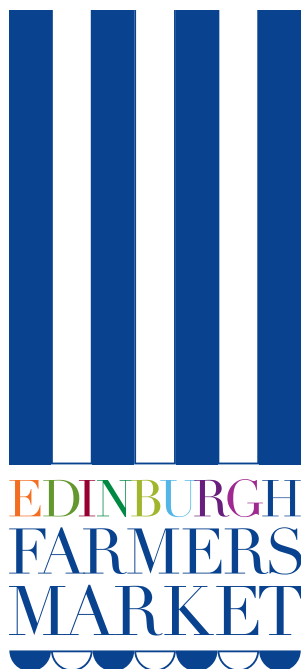
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# Clothes

*Be yourself; everyone  
else is already taken.*

Oscar Wilde

This City's always had a reputation as a destination for vintage gear – after all, the world famous Armstrong's has now been trading for nearly 175 years! – and the present day shops are no different when it comes to quality, variety and value. Whether it's that must-have jacket or a special-occasion dress, the shops in here will be sure to help you out. It's not just clothes, either; many stock jewellery and other accessories to complete your perfect outfit. And, as with the best shops, you'll fall in love with items you never even knew you wanted. Kaftan anyone? One (relatively) careful owner....

We spoke to Anna, the owner of Herman Brown in the West Port, one of the longest established vintage shops in Edinburgh...

## **So, who is Herman Brown & how did all this start?**

Well, in 1984 I wanted to get back into retail after a few years away from the business (I had a boutique in Edinburgh previously from 1968-1975) but I had very little money and that is when I discovered the world of vintage. As for Herman Brown, it's a made up name.

## **How long have you been doing this?**

This year, I'll have been in the vintage trade for 31 years.

## **What changes have you noticed over the years?**

Too many to mention, but the onset of the Internet has got to be one of the biggest, especially as networking is vital to any business now. Also, there is a greater awareness of the value/worth of some items that have been previously worn or used (though of course one has to be discriminating).



## **Where do you get your stock from?**

People bring items and collections to me, I go to Antique fairs and Vintage markets here in the UK and abroad, mostly Amsterdam, Paris and Florence.

## **What are people looking for right now?**

People are looking for a vast variety of items on a regular basis from 1940s-1980s dresses, 1930s beaded handbags, all sorts of jewellery; cashmere knitwear is always in demand!

## **What find did you get most excited about?**

I am often excited by the things that I come upon. High on the list would be fine Egyptian revival jewellery and clothing from the 1960s label Bus Stop and of course Biba items which are quite rare now. Some Edwardian blouses that I bought recently ticked most boxes.

## **How do people get in touch?**

Usually by phone (0131 228 2589), by email ([info@hermanbrown.co.uk](mailto:info@hermanbrown.co.uk)) and also by the recommendation of others.

## **What would be your three recommendations to eat, drink or shop in Edinburgh & why?**

One of my favourite shops is Analogue in Candlemaker Row ([www.analoguebooks.co.uk](http://www.analoguebooks.co.uk))

for an inspiring collection of books and gifts, Lovecrumbs ([www.lovecrumbs.co.uk/](http://www.lovecrumbs.co.uk/)) in the West Port is truly cake heaven and Spoon Café Bistro ([www.spoonedinburgh.co.uk](http://www.spoonedinburgh.co.uk)) on Nicolson Street has fine food in a pleasant warm atmosphere.

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# Home



Charles M. Schulz

**A hand-picked item from the recent (or not so recent) past? A new stylus to play your vinyl? An unusual, must-have piece of furniture? A beautiful patchwork quilt? A mirror you just have to buy? A brass oil lamp? An antique doll's house? The answer is yes, you can get them all here in Edinburgh. Some of this selection of shops are a wee bit out of the city centre but they're well worth the trip.**

Bra Bohag sells beautiful mid-century furniture from a shop in Easter Road. We spoke to the owner Louice...

## **So, Bra Bohag: what does it mean?**

It means good things that you live with, good things for the home. In Sweden in the late 40s, 50s & 60s, there was a big department store in Stockholm – a bit like Harrods. The store employed very good designers for furniture, fabric, things like that to design products for them that were very good quality – under the umbrella name of Bra Bohag

## **Is this the result of a long-term love affair that you've had with the furniture?**

Not really. If you were brought up in Sweden, you were just brought up with this stuff. I'm an artist myself and this just started as a hobby about five years ago

## **Where do you get the stock?**

I go to Sweden regularly and I'm in touch with collectors, dealers and auction houses and I'm getting to know people too. Some items come from this country as well. I've currently got some English pieces from the same period. All the art is basically mid-century too and mostly Scandinavian, although we do have some Japanese prints that are more recent



## **Who are your customers?**

It varies from young to very old. From Edinburgh to Aberdeen and all the way down to London. The shop's a small space but people seem to know about it

## **If people want to know more about Bra Bohag, where should they go?**

People can phone or email me ([mail@brabohag.com](mailto:mail@brabohag.com)), but most people get in touch through my facebook page – Bra-Bohag. There's a website too.

## **If you had to recommend three places to eat, drink or shop in Edinburgh, what would they be?**

The Manna House just up the road ([www.themannahousebakery.co.uk/](http://www.themannahousebakery.co.uk/)) is just excellent and there's Polentoni, a new Italian Deli that's just opened up nearby. I like the Baillie in the Stockbridge area – it's got a lovely atmosphere and it's dark – what a pub should be like ([www.thebailliebar.co.uk/bar](http://www.thebailliebar.co.uk/bar)). And Timberyard also – it's a lovely place ([www.timberyard.co/](http://www.timberyard.co/)) and it's close to the Grassmarket and the City Centre.







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# Music



Back in my day, it was all vinyl, of course; gatefold sleeves nestled under your arm, the crackle and hiss just as the music started, watching the needle undulate as it made its journey to the label at the centre, those strange messages in the run-out grooves, going to shops and flipping through racks looking to see if someone you liked had made anything new. Revisit that golden age in the selection of shops we've highlighted in this section. And not just vinyl but cassettes and CDs too – I'm sure I even saw some 8-track cartridges a couple of days ago...

But what happened to all my vinyl, you ask? It's gone, long gone, to who knows where....sold, traded, taken to parties and then "disappeared". Visit these shops and you might come across some of those long-lost treasures.

Backbeat Records on East Crosscauseway in the Southside is one of our many hidden gems: a treasure trove of floor to ceiling vinyl that's been a fixture for years. We spoke to Dougie about music and life on a sunny morning during the annual Festival Fringe....

## **How long has Backbeat Records been going?**

Well, we started in Stockbridge in 1981 and we've been here since 1990, so over 30 years. I was working on the oil rigs in Shetland in the very early days of the business but it's been full-time for me for over 30 years.

## **We're surrounded by vinyl here – how many records do you reckon you have and how do you keep on top of it all?**

The last time we did a stock-check we had 65,000 items and that figure gets added to regularly. A stock-take is a long process – a lot of the information is in my head – and takes quite a few days.

## **You're regularly updating your stock –**

**where does it come from?** I do a lot of trips abroad. Recently, we've been to Hawaii three times –



it's absolutely awash

with records. It was the home of the American fleet, so when troops leave & they don't ship their records back home....I've done 35 trips to the USA looking for private collections, thrift stores, yard sales. I was in Florida recently and stopped for petrol, got talking to someone who had 800 records stored in his garage. I looked over them and shipped them home. Two weeks ago I was in the South of France.....

## **Where do your customers come from and how do they keep in touch?**

Everywhere – the shop's got a good reputation so we get a lot of walk-ins and I have many regulars, both from here and abroad. I'm not a great one for email and the internet, so most people contact me by phone (0131 668 2666)

## **After all this time, are there any gaps in your own collection – are you still searching for that elusive release?**

Not really, I've got everything I ever wanted. In fact, I'm considering selling part of my own collection, so that other people could get a chance to hear some rarities.

## **It feels like a real old-fashioned independent record shop in here....**

I like the opportunity to meet customers face to face and have a chat about what they like. A lot of regulars now come in and say "recommend something to me". And I love the opportunity to go visiting and look for records, got to clubs and see live music.

## **If you had to recommend three places to eat, drink or shop in Edinburgh, what would they be?**

The Southsider (<http://www.thesouthsiderpub.co.uk/>), is just around the corner: just what you want from a local pub – good beer, good food and good company. I often go to Whistlebinkies in the Old Town too (<http://www.whistlebinkies.com/>) – a great place to see live bands. Lastly, although, it's a wee bit out of the way, the Spice Lounge Kitchen (<http://www.spiceloungekitchen.co.uk/>) – we've been there quite a few times and never had less than a brilliant meal.



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# Books

Of course, Edinburgh has always been a very literary city. From Robert Louis Stevenson and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Ian Rankin, JK Rowling, Irvine Welsh and the late Iain Banks, this city's particularly gothic feel has inspired authors and readers alike down the years.

It's no surprise, then, that Edinburgh boasts a broad range of well-stocked new, antiquarian and second-hand book shops.

Picture it: rows & rows of books, reaching up to ceiling, that familiar, slightly musty, undeniable "booky" smell. Run your finger along the spines, looking for something in particular, or just looking.

We caught up with Robert, owner of "The Gently Mad" in Canonmills – an oasis of calm during a hectic Edinburgh August afternoon...

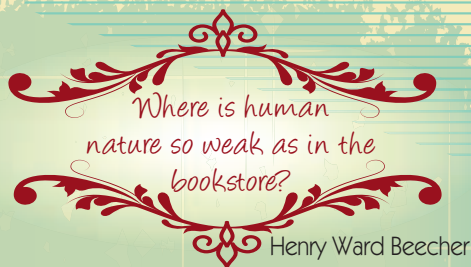
## **So, what's the story behind The Gently Mad?**

I've had the shop for about 3 years; previously I was running a bookshop for a charity & before then I'd worked in IT. And before that I trained as a bookbinder when I was 18, 19. Over the years, I did a bit of buying & selling & collecting books. One of my interests is children's books - Ladybird books in particular - and as a collector, I ended up with so many of them that it grew from there.

**Why Ladybird books?** I grew up reading them and so when I spotted books like the Well-Loved Tales and The Magic Porridge Pot, it just brought back so many memories. When you open the books it's like "Wow, I remember this!" I thought I'll just try & complete the whole collection which is 643 books and I managed them all in first editions. Because I was buying them by the box load I had not just doubles and triples but fifteen of some editions. So when I started to sell my additional copies it got me into the bookselling side of things.

**The Gently Mad – where did the name come from?** It comes from an American book collector called Nicholas Brasbanes who wrote a book called "Among the Gently Mad" which is all about bibliophiles, book collectors....everyone in the book world is touched with a bit of madness!

**As well as the book sales, you specialise in bookbinding** Yes – I get a lot of bible repairs, books that are sentimental to families, re-backing a volume that belonged to Granny for example, a lot of student theses and I occasionally



get commissioned to do some nice big bespoke binding jobs – we just recently did the visitor books for some lodges.

**Where does that work come from?** We're quite high up in search engines so if you type in bookbinding or book sales you'll see us but also, because the previous business also did some binding, people have it in their mind that there's a bookbinder here. A lot of business is word of mouth in the book trade & through recommendations. We're on Yell.com and a few local brochures too. And like everyone, we're on Facebook at thegentlymad.

**We're surrounded by a lovely selection of books here – are there specific areas you like to concentrate on?** We're strong on vintage children's books, natural history since we're near the Botanic Gardens – books about flowers, plants, birds – we've also got a strong Scottish section.

Basically, what I try to do since it's a small shop compared to some other bookshops, I don't sell a huge amount of fiction unless it's collectable such as a first edition. We don't stock a lot of paperbacks – the Kindle seems to be taking over and people can buy a paperback book from Amazon for a penny. I'm a bookbinder so I love the look of a book and I tend to have books that are nice to look at as well being good on their subject matter – so it's mostly non-fiction and antiquarian.

**Lastly, if you had to recommend three places to eat, drink or shop in Edinburgh, what would they be?** I'm quite a fan of Indian food so I'd

tend to recommend Kushi's (<http://www.khushis.com/>) – they're at the top of Leith Walk; the food is simply served but really good. To drink, I like The Pond (<http://www.thepondleith.co.uk/>) which is slightly off the beaten track but well worth a visit and The Pear Tree (<http://pear-tree-house.co.uk/bar/>) which is on the Southside, near the University. And also The Black Bull in the Old Town (<http://www.theblackbull-edinburgh.co.uk/>) which is good for live music.





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We have worked on a many projects, both new build and refurbishments, including redevelopment of existing historically significant buildings. This work enhances and protects the city centre for future generations.

We have been particularly proud of the Usher Hall Extension project which has allowed this venue to continue to attract fantastic high profile artists and be a first class venue for the future.

We are continuing to assist on a number of ongoing commissions and are delighted to be involved in maintaining and enhancing the city's internationally recognised cityscape.

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# Food & Drink

*Part of the secret of success in life is  
to eat what you like and let the  
food fight it out inside.*

Mark Twain

From a strong cup of coffee to start your day, bars with character, haute cuisine, bars with characters, haute dogs, afternoon tea, cakey goodness, sweets galore, cocktails to start the evening or a nightcap before retiring, Edinburgh has exactly what you need. We've highlighted just a few of our favourites from a wide range. Discover your own favourite and tell us all about it here - [edinburghsvintage@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghsvintage@gmail.com)

Casa Angelina is a vintage tea room and patisserie, recently opened in the heart of the New Town on London Street. We caught up with Marie Claire for a chat and found ourselves surrounded by tempting treats....

## **When did Casa Angelina open?**

We opened on the 9th of March 2013. I'd worked in many restaurants before but this is the first business I've run

## **What's been the biggest challenge over the past year or so?**

Well, I've been a chef for over fourteen years, so I've always worked with food. So the biggest challenge has been the business aspects – paperwork, staff, that kind of thing. It's been a steep learning curve but I love it.

## **There's a big focus on cake, which I'm very pleased to see.**

## **Tell me a wee bit about your background.**

I trained as a chef and worked in high-end restaurants in London and elsewhere; I also studied in Italy. I decided to learn more about being a pastry chef and I've been doing that for fourteen years.



## **Being surrounded by all these delicious cakes, is it difficult not to succumb to temptation?**

No, I'm working for 12 hours a day and very busy, so it's not a problem

## **What would be your personal favourite?**

I'm half American, so I do like a proper cheesecake. I also have a soft spot for red velvet cake

## **Casa Angelina – is the shop name after anybody specific?**

It's named after my grandmother. Nonna was an amazing cook who helped to bring me up and get me interested in food. She lived to be 101!

## **If people want to keep in touch with Casa Angelina, where should they go?**

Most people keep in touch through our facebook page – [CasaAngelinaEdinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/CasaAngelinaEdinburgh) – and we're also on twitter [@Casa\\_Angelina](https://twitter.com/Casa_Angelina)

## **Finally, what would be your 3 recommendations to eat, drink or shop in Edinburgh & why?**

I do like to eat out and most of my friends are chefs, so here goes....Blackfriars (<http://blackfriarsedinburgh.co.uk/>) is my style of cooking, from the heart; Timberyard (<http://www.timberyard.co/>) is also very good. Two of my friends are involved, so I do like Castle Terrace (<http://www.castleterracerestaurant.com/>), especially for a wee treat. There's so many good places to eat in the city – I go to L'Escargot Bleu (<http://www.lescargotbleu.co.uk/>) regularly; it's just around the corner.

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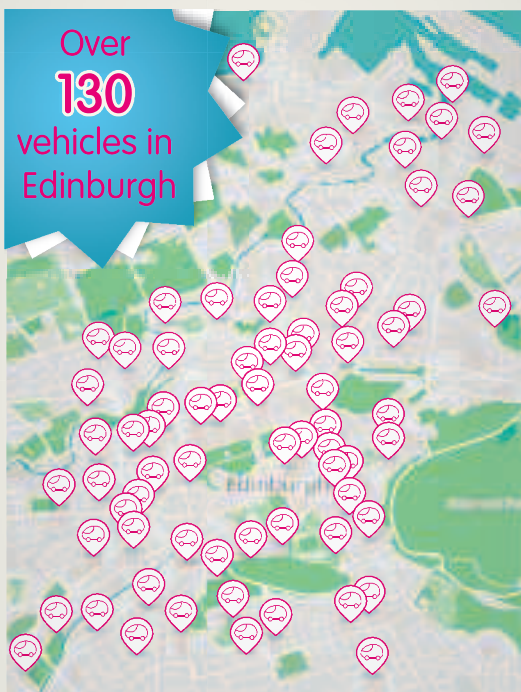
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# Clubs

*We should consider every day  
lost on which we have not danced  
at least once.*

Frederick Nietzsche



You've bought the outfit, had something to eat and perhaps sampled a few cocktails too; it's time to hit the dancefloor.

In addition to the venues in here, check out the Queen's Hall, Usher Hall, Bannermans, Whistlebinkies, Corn Exchange, Caves and many others. For information on gigs and club nights, go to [www.theskinny.co.uk](http://www.theskinny.co.uk) and [www.list.co.uk](http://www.list.co.uk) for more details

Studio 24 has a range of regular nights to suit any mood from psytrance to mod, soul and garage rock via rockabilly, doo wop, disco and post-punk. Not all on the same night, though.

The Green Door is one of Edinburgh's most popular club nights. We caught up with Barbara for a quick chat as she prepared for another busy night...

## **How long has the Green Door been going and when is it on?**

It's been going for over 5 years and is on the 3rd Saturday of every month at Studio 24

## **What kind of crowd do you attract?**

We attract a really broad range of folk, from long-term faces on the rock 'n' roll and rhythm 'n' blues scenes, to students and fans of the vintage scene and crucially, people who just want to dance and have a fun party. We're really proud that we consistently attract a friendly bunch!

## **How would you describe the music that gets played?**

We play rock 'n' roll, rhythm 'n' blues, doo wop, garage, surf and soul primarily from the 1940s through to the 1960s.



## **What nights stick in your mind and why?**

We often find ourselves the morning after the club saying, 'that was the best Green Door ever' so it's pretty hard to pick. The August club can be pretty wild with performers from various shows heading along to dance off the last of their energy, and those Hogmanays when we've seen in the bells make us feel particularly warm and fuzzy!

## **What's the best way to keep in touch with what's happening at the Green Door?**

The best way to keep up to date with The Green Door is through facebook, either by liking the Green Door club page (The-Green-Door) or by making friends with our mascot Rockadile Greendoor.

## **Apart from the Green Door, what would be your 3 recommendations to eat, drink or shop in Edinburgh & why?**

There are so many good places to eat and drink in Edinburgh - Lovecrums on West Port do phenomenal cakes ([www.lovocrums.co.uk/](http://www.lovocrums.co.uk/)) and Machina Espresso on Brougham Place do absolutely dynamite coffee ([www.machina-espresso.co.uk/](http://www.machina-espresso.co.uk/)). Also, while it doesn't fall under any of these categories, York Barbers is the number one place in the Old Town for a chap to get his quiff coiffed and, should any ladies wish to have their tresses dressed, track down Kay Corbett either through facebook or at Miss Dixiebelles in Bruntsfield ([www.missdixiebelle.co.uk](http://www.missdixiebelle.co.uk)).



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# Markets

To travel is to shop

Susan Sontag

Edinburgh has a number of regular outdoor markets. These are a great opportunity to stock up on deliciously fresh local produce including meat, fish, fruit and veg. In addition, look out for artisan breads and coffee, organic beers and wines, jams, chutneys and street food from around the world. Many of our markets also offer interesting selections of antiques, collectibles, bric-a-brac and maybe even bricolage too.

We caught up with Tania, one of the organisers of Edinburgh's newest market – Platform 2 – on a warm and lively afternoon...

## So, how long have you been here?

We've been running for over six months, every Friday next to Platform 2 in Waverley Station. We have a real city centre location, it's undercover & with all this daylight, it's really beautiful. When it gets a wee bit cooler, people will be able to come inside and wander around – which is really unusual for this kind of market.

## Did it take you a long time to get this up & running?

Quite a while – it's a mainline station, so we've worked with Network Rail for many months on every aspect of putting on a market. They've been very supportive and, as far as I know, it's the first Network Rail market in the whole of the UK.

This is a hub right in the centre of Edinburgh where people can come & buy products but also it's a place for people to meet, communicate and just enjoy wandering about.

## What kinds of stalls have you got?

We have so many different things – lovely artisan foods, fashion, jewellery, soaps and candles; but the most important thing about the market is our ethical

ethos. Wherever we can, we provide a platform to start-up businesses, social enterprises, ethical and fair-trade businesses as well as locally-sourced products. Also, once a month, we have a visiting fair including a record fair selling new and second-hand vinyl and a vintage fair selling fashion, jewellery and home furnishings; they even bring a portable changing room!

## Where do people go to find out more information?

We have a facebook page – Localmotive Markets – and we have a website too ([www.localmotivemarkets.co.uk](http://www.localmotivemarkets.co.uk)). You can also find us on twitter @LocalMotiveMkts

## If you had to recommend three places to eat, drink or shop in Edinburgh, what would they be?

Tupiniquim (<http://tupiniquim.co.uk/>) is a Brazilian kiosk on Lauriston Place. They make the most amazing crepes and they use all fair trade and locally sourced ingredients. They do one with fruit and chocolate – it's just beautiful – and they do savoury too and lots of Brazilian dishes with rice and beans. The kiosk is so small that you think "how could they possibly create so much food in there?" And they have an outside area and sometimes there is live music and dancing. It's a little bit of Brazil, right here in Edinburgh. I also like Howies ([www.howies.uk.com/](http://www.howies.uk.com/)) in the Grassmarket because it's unpretentious and I just know the food's going to be good. Lastly, Iglu in Stockbridge ([www.theiglu.com/](http://www.theiglu.com/)).



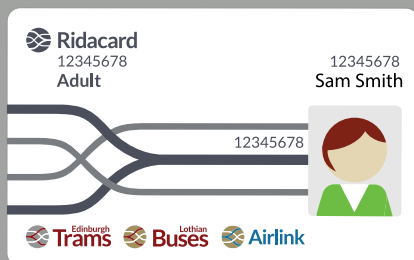


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