



New found friends at Saratoga Trunk and (left) party shoes at Gladrag



Fifties swimsuits at Retro (below)

to go with it, although Lesley thinks it could look better with a chic French suit. It's important not to be put off if you don't think a given style will be flattering. Vintage clothes aren't called classics for nothing and often look completely different when worn than hanging from a rail. "Lots of people cut the clothes up, making a blouse or a skirt out of a dress," says Lesley – although you could live to regret that in 20 years when it might be

'Much on the high street is throwaway clothes and people are getting bored'

### Lesley McGowan, Retro

worth a fortune. Also remember that sizes were different too, so measure yourself in inches before stepping back in time. Finishing touches can make the world of difference, too. "In the Fifties, busts were higher up, but all you'll probably need is a new bra to look the part."

We took a deep breath entering the day's final destination – the supermarket-sized **Saratoga Trunk**. Cathie McLay started the business under another name in 1976 and gradually as her showrooom snowballed so did the emporium's awareness. Saratoga Trunk is now a must-stop shop for theatre wardrobes and vintage shop stock buyers from Australia and Canada. Scottish wardrobe designer for *Star Wars*, Trisha Biggar always makes time for inspiration at Saratoga Trunk. "She comes in, sees something and instantly knows what she's going to do with it," says Cathie. Plus many of the Fifties costumes from the forthcoming Ewan McGregor and

Cathie sources most of her ever-increasing stock – which spans from the Victorian era to the Seventies – from the Scottish public. Think of the times you've thrown away granny's ball gowns or your flowery hotpants – you and your attic might not want them, but Cathie does. "I love hoarders," she exclaims. "I can be as excited buying a men's undervest to a Twenties beaded dress – I need it all." And they've got everything: men's, ladies' and children's day and evening wear, accessories, luggage and textiles. From floral swimming caps to leopard print jackets... it's all here and I leave banking after their printed silk scarves (fabulous as a belt or folded into a halter-neck blouse) and their elegant collection of black dresses. Meanwhile Simon's made a friend – the Thirties mannequin affectionately called Deirdre – to go with his Forties suit and Fair Isle pullover. It's amazing who you meet when you're time-travelling...

### RETRO RELIEF

- Gladrag, 17 Henderson Row, Edinburgh;
- Armstrongs, 83 Grassmarket and 66 Clerk Street, Edinburgh;
- Retro, 8 Otago Street, Glasgow; Saratoga Trunk, 61



Dipping deep at Saratoga Trunk

