

A photograph of two women in a courtyard. They are reaching up towards a clothesline where several pieces of light-colored fabric are hanging. The woman on the left is wearing a dark long-sleeved top, and the woman on the right is wearing a blue top with a striped long-sleeved shirt underneath. The background shows a brick wall on the left and a grey stone wall with a white door on the right. The sky is overcast.

# thread counts

**Thread Counts** is a collaborative business, research and education forum for **sustainable fashion** and textiles in the South West

Thread Counts welcomes everyone with an interest in making, designing, crafting, debating, learning, sharing, and the drive to advance sustainability as part of our creative future.

The Thread Counts initiative will launch with Makers Day event on Saturday 22nd April 2017 supported by a week-long exhibition. Join us - be informed, engaged, inspired and make change happen!

This event is bringing people together to discuss and develop the Thread Counts concept. It will showcase new practices, connect university students and staff with businesses and community partners, and explore ways we can support new and established creatives to connect across the region.

## Programme:

**10.30 Exhibition** - WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT CLOTHES - which explores the 35,000 tonnes of textile waste sent to land fill in the UK each year.

Designers, makers and students are given the opportunity to respond to this crisis through a range of mediums including Art, Photography, Film, and of course Fashion and Textiles

**12.30** Lunch provided

**1.30 Talks and workshops** - to continue the theme of the value of making, with workshops to help both beginner and intermediate makers try out their skills.

**3.30 Open debate** – focused on the value of making and sustainability within fashion and textiles.

The day is open to anyone interested in Fashion & Textiles, Making (of all kinds) and Sustainable and Ethical design. Participants will have the chance to 'Make Do and Mend' and have a go at customising, upcycling and mending garments.

Thread Counts has a shared vision to inform, engage, inspire and innovate in sustainable fashion and textiles. The aim is to develop a collaboration platform to promote ethical design, responsible business and positive impact, for students, designer makers, researchers, policy makers, educators, business partners and practitioners across the region. The key strands of this venture are:

- Business engagement
- Research development
- Education and learning
- Community impact

Thread Counts will connect stakeholders through active engagement, to develop their professional practice, understanding of change and contribution to sustainability. This network will aim to support and develop a shared understanding of their potential as agents for change in this sector and how they can increase their positive impact locally and globally.

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