



Eco Friendly Furniture - the next big thing?

A new Shropshire business is creating unique eco-friendly, hand-painted upcycled furniture to appeal to more ethical consumers committed to 'non-consumption.'

We visited Vanessa Dee at her Condover workshop.

Moving to Shropshire from the USA saw Vanessa Dee looking to repurpose much of her old furniture to fit with her newly restored property – Condover House, itself upcycled from its former use as a children’s home.




Her artistic updating led to the launch of a new business Condover Furniture in 2018 - with the core mission to create funky, fun eco-friendly furniture. She uses bright colours and attractive detailing such as beautiful, individually handmade glass knobs from both Nottinghamshire, UK and Murano, Italy, to inject a sense of fun into the tired old tables, wardrobes and drawers, some of which are sourced from Revive, Hope House, The British Heart Foundation and Sue Ryder.

Most recently, she has begun working with glass designer maker Ingrid Pears MBE, to offer truly unique pieces of furniture, made on a commission basis, with the client’s input. Vanessa’s idea is catching on. She recently won the #SBS Award (a retweet) from retail entrepreneur Theo Paphitis (of Dragon’s Den fame) - part of his ‘Small Business Sunday’ initiative. Vanessa said: “I’m not only prolonging the life of existing unwanted and



discarded furniture which in itself helps the environment, but also ensuring I use top quality, environmentally friendly products and the key is I make it cool. “I take my time to prime and paint each piece of furniture with 3 coats of top-quality Little Greene paint and wax it with food safe Osmo waxes and oils. In addition, I offer eco-friendly Re-Wrapped designer brand paper to line the drawers, which is made of recycled paper and printed with vegetable dyes. If people are looking to help the environment, I’d like to ensure the product I offer is a top-quality desirable product. “Many people don’t have the time to repair and paint furniture these days, especially the younger generations, so I can help.”

She added: “I want to give people a fun, funky piece of art with personality that they will cherish and enjoy looking at every day, so that they will be happy they have made that choice and not see it as a compromise.” Visit www.condoverfurniture.com to see more examples of her work, or drop in to her Condover showroom - SY5 7AA.

 [condoverfurniture](https://www.instagram.com/condoverfurniture)
 [@condoverfurnit1](https://twitter.com/condoverfurnit1)
 07708 727127



Vanessa Dee, left, with Ingrid Pears MBE