

Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Helping you to
clear clutter and
feel -

Better!"

Issue 18 - August 2010

'Finding a New Home for your Stuff'
PLUS - Reader Survey

Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

Welcome to the August edition of **Chaotic Times!**

Have you ever de-cluttered and wanted to give something away free to a good home, but not known how best to go about it? Obviously there's the charity shop route; but there are two organisations that could potentially link you with local people who actually *need* what you have to give away.

This month's content has been suggested by reader Alison Mead of [Silicon Bullet Ltd](#) (bookkeeping and Sage Training). Alison is based near Northampton and is involved in the running of her local Freegle group.



Freegle (Freely Giving Locally Easily) is a web based organisation which enables people to list items they want to pass on, as well as search for items they would like to find. Take a look at their [website](#) to see how it works.

I must admit I'd not heard of Freegle, but having checked the site I can say that it's well thought out and very easy to understand, with offers of help from those who run the local groups if you get stuck with anything. All the 'rules' can be found by clicking on 'Handbook' at the bottom of the web page. Here's a direct link to the [Northampton group](#) which is in the East Midlands area. Alison says she's looking for more volunteers to help with running the group, so if you're passionate about recycling and have a bit of spare time - what are you waiting for?



The alternative to Freegle is [Freecycle](#) which in fact came along first and was the impetus for Freegle. Freecycle originated in America and seems to have similar aims to Freegle. I know people who have used Freecycle and who think it's brilliant. Others complain of mountains of e-mails. Like anything, it needs to be managed carefully and understood.



My advice would be to look at both websites and go with whichever seems most user friendly to you. I must say I liked the simplicity of the Freegle site, but at the end of the day it's horses for courses. If you decide to have a go with either Freegle or Freecycle, let me know how you get on. It's good to get feedback and it will be helpful for other readers.

What about Books?

Are you someone who loves books but just doesn't have a house big enough to store them all?

[BookCrossing](#) is an organisation that has 800,000 members across 130 countries! Basically unwanted books are posted to the site and hopefully re-homed.



As ever, check the website for more in-depth information if this is something which appeals to you.

So, several ways to de-clutter with a clear conscience. I'm all in favour of avoiding landfill and helping others. What could be better - your house free of clutter and the knowledge that someone somewhere is using and loving the things you no longer need.

READERS' SURVEY!

I'm hoping that you will let me know your thoughts on a couple of things I've been mulling over.

Firstly, those of you who read my blog will have seen the June entry entitled "[How Helpful are Self-help Books?](#)" I'd like to know if there's anyone who has:

1. ever bought a de-cluttering manual/self-help book
2. If you did buy one - how useful was it?

3. If you didn't find the book useful, are you able to say why that was? What was difficult about using the book?

Former clients will know I'm passionate about enabling people to take control of their environment. This is primarily about learning simple techniques and appreciating the detrimental effect of a cluttered living or work space.



The obvious alternative to reading a self-help book would be a practical workshop with guidance and support relevant to individual situations. This is something I shall be working on over the coming months.

If this idea is of interest, please take a few minutes to drop me an e-mail suggesting topics you would like to see covered. I would rather build this around what *you* need.

*Best regards,
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