

# Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Creating SPACE -  
Restoring ORDER"

Issue 62 - April 2014

Facing your own mortality



# Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

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

What's the old cliché? There's only two certainties in life? Death and taxes! This month my decluttering newsletter focuses on the former in relation to the things we leave behind after we're gone.



Morbid? Maybe. But none of us will live forever. Doesn't it make sense to think of your loved-ones and not leave them with lots of extra work and worry after you're gone?

If you've made a will, then that's a good start. Dying 'intestate' causes all sorts of problems. If you've promised certain of your possessions to specific people, these bequests should be documented in the will to avoid any misunderstandings. More on wills later.

But what about all the ordinary things in your home? One of my mother's elderly friends was a little concerned at how her daughter would cope in the event of her death. The daughter's immediate response was "don't worry mum - we'll get a skip!"

Whilst that may have been a family joke, how would you feel, knowing your family would have to go to those lengths on your behalf?

Reap the benefits of getting your house in order - before it becomes a necessity. If you're in the prime of life it's hard to imagine how it feels to be old and frail . . . .

However, there may come a time when you need to downsize your home, to maybe a small bungalow or warden controlled flat. At that point, it's likely that someone else will be making the decisions about *your* belongings.

If this seems irrelevant to you - what about your own parents? Will *you* be faced with clearing out the family home at some point in the future? Is that a daunting prospect?



I'm acutely aware this could be seen as quite a depressing viewpoint. But surely, it's better to have control over the fate of your own belongings ?

If you have young children, make it your aim now, not to burden them in the future with the task of sorting out all your clutter. Passing on your good habits to your children will be an additional benefit to them as they grow up.

After all, minimising clutter is really about getting into good habits.

If youth is on your side - begin to think more about the long term when you acquire things. Do you need it? Does it enhance your life? If you think the answer to both those questions is a 'yes', then consider a policy of one in - one out, it's a good starting point.

Earlier, I mentioned having a will as being the first step to being organised in relation to the inheritance we leave for our nearest and dearest. If you don't yet have a will, I would certainly encourage you to find out more and get some advice, at least.

Last year I met Tim Williams who is a specialist [advisor in inheritance matters](#). This is the sole focus of his business.

Tim takes the stress out of inheritance planning by visiting his clients in their own homes. A far more relaxing experience than a formal office environment.

Tim is quick to emphasise that he can help with so much more than simply preparing a will.



What about Lasting Power of Attorney, for example? Also, ways to protect your bequests, and ensure that your money goes exactly where you intended.

Tim is a member of the Society of Will Writers and has been helping clients since 2003. Take a look at his [website](#) for more information.

## How I can help:

Since this is such an emotive subject, I'm happy to chat with anyone who feels in need of some support.

I am also available to help anyone with the unenviable task of clearing the home of an elderly relative. I believe it's important to acknowledge all the emotions that arise when sorting through someone's personal belongings. This is so much more than simply clearing an amount of 'things'. Don't beat yourself up if this feels like an overwhelming and distressing task for you.

Do pick up the phone, I aim to be as flexible as possible with my clients. There's always a solution around the corner.

It goes without saying that if you know of any friends or family facing this situation, then I would be more than happy for you to pass on my details or forward this newsletter.



*Best regards,  
Judith*

**t:** 01327 705294

**e:** [organised@judithmorris.co.uk](mailto:organised@judithmorris.co.uk)

**w:** [www.judithmorris.co.uk](http://www.judithmorris.co.uk)

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