

Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Creating SPACE -
Restoring ORDER"

Issue 73 - March 2015

Don't turn into the 'bag' lady
(or gentleman)



Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

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

I hope I've inspired a degree of curiosity with the title for this month's newsletter?

My topic has been inspired by two clients I've worked with recently. One, the owner of a small business, and the other a domestic client. These two ladies have more in common than you might imagine.

First and foremost, I'm helping them both do a spot of decluttering, with a view to becoming more organised and less stressed.

Secondly, they both had rather a lot of these:



Well, to be fair they weren't all M&S carrier bags -

they had an assortment!

Aren't we meant to be re-using carrier bags rather than just casting them into landfill?

Well, let me explain. Both women had used the carrier bags as temporary, (possibly permanent - until I came along), storage for 'stuff'. Ill- assorted stuff.

So it was difficult for them to know exactly what they had got as it was all bundled up in carrier bags. Guess what? These bags of stuff were then stored inside other carrier bags . . .



Trying to reveal the contents of these bags was like the Dance of the Seven Veils! Carrier bags just aren't designed to be a home or office storage solution. Funny that, isn't it? Anybody would think they were meant for carrying shopping, or something?

But in a well intentioned, environmentally friendly way we just can't bring ourselves to dispose of a perfectly good carrier bag. It simply isn't right. Here I would agree with you. My suggested way round this is to either buy Bags for Life, or some other alternative stout and durable bags. Then, and this is hard for some of you - DON'T EVEN PICK UP THE FREE BAGS! Some supermarkets such as Sainsbury and Tesco have carrier bag recycling bins - so no excuses!

This October we will all be [paying 5p for practically every carrier bag](#). For me, this can't come soon enough. Far less bags to strew around the countryside, chuck into landfill or litter up people's homes.

HURRAH!



I'm afraid it gets worse!

You probably know that these days many carrier bags are designed to bio-degrade over time?

Well, unfortunately for my clients, their bags were busy bio-degrading whilst full of 'things'.

The implication of this is that when we were working together, both women reached out to pick up a carrier bag, which then promptly crumbled to dust.

I'd never seen this before! The dust spread itself all over my clients clothing, all over the floor and of course all over the stored items that had been inside the bag. It was so fine that it was necessary to get out the vacuum cleaner to clear the mess.

So, if you've got your stuff stored in carrier bags - I suggest it's time for a re-think!

Tips for avoiding a carrier bag snow storm!

- ✓ Don't hoard carrier bags - if you haven't got them, you can't use them!
- ✓ Get into the habit of using 'Bags for Life' for your shopping
- ✓ Appreciate that storing lots of 'stuff' in carrier bags is not at all helpful when you want to find things!
- ✓ Is the carrier bag storage system a way of ignoring an increasingly urgent need to declutter? Can you be honest with yourself?

Give me a call on 01327 705294, or drop me an [e-mail](#) - I can help you declutter and find storage solutions that work for you. Afterwards you'll wonder why you ever needed all those carrier bags. Even if you're not sure how I can help, I'm always happy to have a chat.

I look forward to hearing from you

*Best regards,
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