

Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Creating SPACE -
Restoring ORDER"

Issue 69 - November 2014

Do you love recycling?
Hate landfill?



Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

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

The reasons for hanging onto clutter are many and various, as I'm sure you're aware. We've explored some of the more common issues here in the Chaotic Times on many occasions.

However, I know there is one thing that sometimes stops my otherwise enthusiastic clients in their decluttering tracks.

Of course we all know that some things can be sold, some given to charity shops and other things recycled.



Let's face it, sometimes when having a clear out it becomes apparent that one or more items are not fit for sale, not the kind of thing you can take to a charity shop, not suitable for council recycling schemes.

Then what?

Do you hate sending things to landfill?

This really is a dilemma if you care about the planet. Some people would rather hang onto something they no longer need than tip it into the "non-recyclable" or more euphemistically labelled "general waste" skip at their local tip.

At our local tip this particular skip displays a large photo of a landfill site and it's not a pretty image. Tons of waste being ploughed into the earth.

So I want to help you avoid consigning your clutter to landfill as much as is humanly possible.



Charity shops - more than just what's on the shelves!

The purpose of a charity shop is to raise as much money as possible from items donated. A quick glance around the average shop reveals books, clothes, accessories, ornaments, and some furniture. All of them in good saleable condition.

Most charity shops have an *additional* income stream

Basically, charities such as the [British Heart Foundation](#) will also welcome ripped, stained and generally tatty clothes and other fabric items such as sheets, towels, and blankets. Even if they are totally unfit for use. These are sold on to recycling companies for rag value.

Penny from Daventry BHF shop tells me that when the recycling company receives a consignment of rag it all gets washed. Any item which could be repaired and used is extracted and sent to Third World countries for their use. This also applies to completely worn out shoes and boots. These also get sent to Third World countries and repaired by people who are learning the trade of a cobbler.



This is fantastic news as far as I'm concerned. I love the fact that every last bit of usefulness is being squeezed from these items.

I also love that every donation of rag or worn out shoes is one less thing to throw into a pit in the ground.

[Here's a useful website for recycling information](#)

Although this is run by Northamptonshire council, much of the advice is general, so do take a look even if you're not in my local area.

For instance, under the "reuse" section, I've just found out about the [Oxfam 'Big Bra Hunt'](#) and there's lots more aimed at the would-be recycler. All of this means less stuff to landfill which is ultimately a good thing for everyone.

I love helping my clients with a recycling challenge!

Some time ago I worked for a lady who had been given lots of lovely gift sets of toiletries, especially at Christmas time. You know the kind of thing, beautifully packaged, smells divine. Just one problem though, she had very sensitive skin and knew what products suited her. She didn't want to take the risk of a nasty allergic reaction.

My client also wanted to be environmentally responsible, so she couldn't bring herself to just throw away all these bottles and jars complete with contents. Nor would I have encouraged that.



Since they were all unopened I suggested she donate them to a local women's hostel and she thought this was a great idea.

It meant that her unwanted gifts were helping women who didn't have much in the way of luxury. It also meant lots of extra storage space in her bedroom and bathroom. Definitely a win-win solution!

What can I help you with?

*Best regards,
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