

Chaotic Times

Organised Chaos Newsletter

"Helping you to
clear clutter and
feel -

Better!"

Issue 5 - July 2009

'Car Boot Sales'

Dear Friends of Organised Chaos

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

Hopefully by the time you receive this we will all be enjoying some lovely summer weather.

This is the perfect time to plan a car boot sale for all your clutter. If you've got children at home over the holidays, rope them in to help. You'll discover budding salesmen and women when they realise there's an opportunity to boost their pocket money by selling old toys!



I'll start by giving you two website addresses which provide a directory of car boot sales. Log onto these sites to find the sales which are local to you. Both sites have handy tips for sellers and buyers alike.

www.yourbooty.co.uk - photograph above from their site

www.carbootjunction.com

Accept the fact that most items will have to be sold quite cheaply, this is the attraction of a car boot sale for prospective purchasers. Be prepared for people who will haggle over the price.

Having said this, if you can literally fill your car with items for sale you can still make a good profit. If you have a good display then people will browse and are more likely to buy than if you've only got a few items. Let's face it, the alternative is give it all away for free. The cost of a pitch for your vehicle is around £6 for a car and £10 for a van.



Be choosy as to which sale you attend. Scan your local paper and pick a sale which is well advertised. This means it will be well attended. Generally speaking sales organised by school PTAs, Scout groups and so on will tend to be small and 'booters' will probably all be selling children's toys and clothes!

Think about prices beforehand, although pricing each item is not really necessary. Ideally have at least one other person to help you as it can get quite hectic!

Plan to arrange items in an attractive way so they can be seen and attract buyers. Consider using a trestle table, wallpaper pasting table or patio table. Pack this into the car last so you can put it up immediately you arrive at your pitch.



A ground sheet and some boxes to give a tiered effect can also be useful. If you're selling clothes and don't have a hanging rail a clothes airer is a useful substitute.

From a security point of view a bum bag is an ideal way of keeping your takings safe. Make sure you take some change as not everyone will have the right money.

Take plenty of carrier bags if you have them, so purchases can be carried away easily and be happy in the knowledge that you're doing your bit for the environment.

It might sound obvious but don't go if the weather isn't good, you will more than likely be wasting your time. Bank Holidays are particularly popular and likely to be busy.

Some surprising items will sell. For instance video cassettes, particularly children's interest. Take along any unwanted gifts or raffle prizes that are cluttering up your cupboards.

Above all, remember to have fun!

If at the end of the day you've still got some items left you can either put them on one side for another car boot later in the season or you can boost the feel good factor by donating to your favourite charity shop.

Finally I would like to thank my sister Amanda for her invaluable contribution to this newsletter. As a seasoned and enthusiastic car-booter she has provided some practical tips based on her experience.

Stop Press - Latest News!

If you haven't taken a look at my website for a while you'll now find an additional page for newsletters. Visitors to the site can sign up directly to receive the newsletter by e-mail and it is also possible to view back issues on a variety of subjects.

Well, happy car-booting - I'd love to hear how you get on!

*Best regards,
Judith*

t: 01327 705294

e: clutter@judithmorris.co.uk

w: www.judithmorris.co.uk

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