

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 16th July 2008

Pedro, a Pickled Pet Monkey and a stuffed crocodile are found amongst the clutter of an old style Indiana Jones explorer.

When he was alive Pedro was a beloved pet monkey. The best friend of an old day explorer who lived abroad most of his life collecting and studying weird and wonderful wildlife. Pedro and his owner came to Britain when his owner returned in his twilight years and Pedro was considered part of the family - having bed-time stories read to him (we believe is favourite story was Jungle Book) and even sending Christmas cards to friends with his photo inside.

When Pedro died his owner couldn't bare to be without his friend so he had him preserved, pickled and placed in a bell jar for posterity. Pedro took pride of place on his owners dining room table. His owner continued with his life and, like many eccentric travellers and botanists of his time, acquired many weird and wonderful artefacts that others would probably consider to be clutter, right up until his death.

When his friend and colleague then began the task of clearing his friends home after his death, such was the chaos and volume of clutter that he had to call in the help of his daughter Angela Twiselton, a trained Clutter Consultant working for the Clutter Clearing Consultancy (www.clutterclearing.net).

It was then that they discovered Pedro in his pickling jar on the dining room table along with one of Pedro's smiling faces in a Christmas card, and a stuffed crocodile in the bedroom. Never before had Angela come across such a truly bizarre find. More concerning was how to dispose of Pedro. So well preserved was Pedro that they couldn't burry him for fear that someone may, one day dig him up and mistake him for a newborn baby. They couldn't burn him due to the amount of preservative in his little body. They couldn't give him away to any institution because he was a 'normal' specimen. Such is the problem with what to do with Pedro that he currently resides in Angela's downstairs cloakroom in his pickling jar in a bucket, waiting for someone to find him a home. Clare Baker who runs the Clutter Clearing Consultancy that were called in to help with this unusual find explains 'we're used to working with people who need help with sorting through the belongings of a loved one after they have passed away. We're used to sentimental attachments for friends and relatives, and we're used to finding treasures amongst the clutter, but this is the first time we've come across a pickled pet, and particularly one that we don't know how to dispose of. We give people advice on what to do with unwanted clutter, but we're really struggling with this one. What is even more strange is the Christmas cards that Pedro used to send - I wonder just how many friends Pedro had as I doubt there are many pet monkeys in the UK.'

Angela Twiselton, the Consultant who helped clear the clutter and discover Pedro said 'I knew my dad had some unusual friends, but I never knew Pedro when he was alive. It's lovely to think that he cared so much about him that he had him pickled. Who knows, maybe Michael Jackson will do the same with Bubbles who, incidentally we haven't heard much about lately. However, there's the practical problem now of what to do with Pedro. If anyone has any ideas we'd love to know.'

Clare and her company, The Clutter Clearing Consultancy has consultants who help people with excessive clutter throughout the whole of the UK and has been helping people since 2003. 'As the credit crunch deepens, more people are asking us for help to make more space in their homes because they can't afford to move to bigger homes, and more people are wanting to turn their clutter into cash. Helping people clear their clutter is not about doing it for them, it's about enabling them to make the decisions and giving them a process to follow – after all, it's not my place to make judgements on other people's belongings. If it was as simple as that I'd save them some money and tell them to get a skip!'

**PEDRO, ANGELA TWISELTON, CLARE BAKER AND PEDRO'S GUARDIAN
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHING
Saturday 19th July from 11am – call 0870 429 9594 to book**

'We've helped lots of people in lots of different ways. One person found a first edition Beatrice Potter book which was valued at £6,500. One lady contacted us because she'd received a quote for an extension to her house – primarily to create more storage space for her clutter, but after our help she didn't need it. One lady realised that her clutter was actually her way of trying to get someone out of her life - hoping that he'd reach a point of having had enough, but unfortunately he didn't. We've even had clients who have been on the telly programmes and found that the help didn't last so they need help to do it themselves.'

We not only help people de-clutter but we also help people get access to local services, charities and recycling information to help them pass on their clutter or get it valued. It's not as simple as deciding 'to keep' or 'to throw away'.

If anyone knows of a good home for Pedro then please contact the Clutter Clearing Consultancy on 0870 429 9594 or e-mail info@clutterclearing.net

PEDRO, ANGELA TWISELTON, CLARE BAKER AND PEDRO'S GUARDIAN

WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHING

on Saturday 19th July
from 11am
in Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire.

Please call one of the following numbers to book an interview with him.

0777 5897955 01295 275030 0203 3030 152 01604
269 129

Notes to editors:

1. Clare Baker can be contacted on 0777 5897955, 01295 275030, 0203 3030 152 or 01604 269 129.
 2. Clare Baker is available for interviews, discussions, phone-ins etc on clutter clearing issues.
 3. Clare Baker has contributed to articles on the issue of clutter for many well known magazines, newspapers and radio stations. (visit <http://www.clutterclearing.net/news.htm> to see a full list)
 4. The Clutter Clearing Consultancy is the only clutter clearing business that offers FREE practical help for de-cluttering.
 5. People can learn how to de-clutter in several ways – either by providing a 1-2-1 home consultation, a group consultation, a telephone consultation or buying her unique eBooks and workbooks to help people get started and find a process to follow.
 6. Clare Baker runs The Clutter Clearing Consultancy – www.clutterclearing.net.
 7. The Clutter Clearing Consultancy has a weekly FREE top tip that people can sign up for on-line at <http://www.clutterclearing.net/toptips.htm>
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