



"I now know there is a really cute boy in north London who is rolling around in Phoebe's cot"

actually it felt good. I now know there is a really cute little boy in north London rolling around in Phoebe's cot; another mother of twins, somewhere in the Clapham area, is being commended on her ability to push two trikes at once; and the travel cots will be taken on holiday by the lovely Matthews family. Most importantly, I'm seven hundred and sixty nine pounds richer.

The next pile was the hardest. These were the cute things that I really wanted to keep, but knew would be more useful to someone else. I needed some facts to give me a push. Fact: my friend's cleaner could not afford a Moses basket – I took a deep breath, washed it carefully and gave it to her. I then called a local charity shop and asked what happened to the money they made. The person I spoke to sounded quite confused: "I don't really know what you need to know... We are a local charity, all of our shop staff are volunteers and everything you donate will be sold to raise funds to keep the hospice, where people are spending their final days, a happy, helpful place." And there was I clinging on to a couple of cot toys! I filled up the boot, told a traffic warden I was donating to dying people and returned home feeling a whole lot better.

But the final pile I couldn't let go: it was my

WHERE TO NEXT, BABY?

So what are the alternatives when it comes to clearing out your baby's treasures? Here are a few ideas for inspiration...

Turn clothes into toys Have a keepsake cloth toy made from the items of clothing you still love. You can either make them yourself, or send your cloth to www.pogglers.co.uk who can make them into a Personalised Recycled Doll or Monster for £25.

Design your own T-shirt or shopping bag If your child has things you absolutely love, you can digitally photograph them and turn them into a series of Warhol-esque images that can be printed on a T-shirt for your child, or a fabric shopping bag for you; it can be your very own Baby Keepsake design.

Make a memory box Collect all of your most precious items together then visit our website at www.juniormagazine.co.uk for a guide to making your own memory box; or you could have a commemorative keepsake made by stylist Clare Macdonald (as shown, left) from £250; tel: 07836 643 367.

Create an electronic journal If you know that you're really never going use your baby's things again, but you still can't bear to part with them, turn them into an electronic memory. Digitally photograph each item, write down stories and memories of when these pieces were being used, then sell them or give them away. This way, you can still show your children all the things they had as a baby, but you won't have to worry about how you store them.

Sell them or give them away Before you sell your baby's things, read Jasmine Birtles' selling tips in *A Bit On The Side: 500 Ways To Boost Your Income* (Piatkus, £10.99). While Ebay is probably the best-known website, there are many other websites where you can sell baby things: try www.nappyvalley.co.uk and www.gumtree.com. But of course, the fastest option is to give things away to charity, so decide what you really don't need any more, then pack it up and take it away before you can change your mind.



indulgence. I got out my husband's old school trunk, scrubbed it and lined it with rose-scented drawer liners. This was to be a special memory trunk for my babies. Packed full of adorable clothes and tiny trinkets, I imagine opening it up once a year with the girls and cooing over their little things. I also hope that when my babies have babies of their own, the trunk will be even more magical.

Will there be gorgeous moments when Phoebe dresses her own newborn daughter in this tiny, white linen dress? Or is it more likely that Dora will be on the phone saying, "What on earth shall we do with this old trunk of Mummy's rubbish that's cluttering up my garage? Do you mind if I chuck it in the skip?" ■