

Episode 5

As mentioned previously we are presiding over the sale of our whole village collection. The process is underway and falling into a pattern. We put a few buildings at a time on the local selling site. This generates many enquiries, some with people making silly offers but mostly genuine interest. A few back and forth messages and a time is arranged for the buyer to call round to our house. We then explain the bigger picture that we have lots to sell and it kind of snowballs from there. One lovely couple returned many times buying more and more pieces.

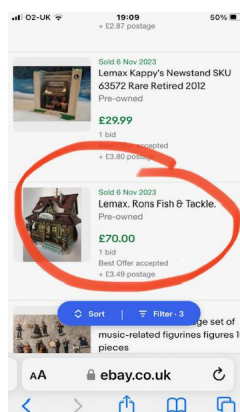
One lady was particularly interested in the landscaping items and bought a job lot of all Sue's bits and pieces, the greenery, stones, twigs, logs, paints and much more. She was even happy to buy Sue's polystyrene landscape creations!



One Mother and daughter travelled from London, a good hour and a half away. They came for a couple of pieces initially but left with a car full. I even gave them the base boards and excess polystyrene.... well they were no use to us now and it saved a trip to the local tip.

I still had a hankering for selling on E-bay and had been "allowed" to put aside a couple of pieces.

First up on E-bay was Ron's Fish 'n Tackle shop. A previous sale had made £70, way above the £20 or so I would have expected.



I started it at £50. However it did not attract a single bid! My optimism and expectation shot down at the first attempt! Further research over time has led me to view items with only one bid with a bit of caution and look to items which sold with multiple bids as a better guideline.

The fairground rides attracted a good deal of attention. They were our particular favourites as we loved the movement and fun element they brought to the village.



We sold them at around half the full retail price, £60 (£120).

It was only looking back at old receipts that showed we bought a couple in the January half price sales and so actually sold them for the same price as we paid for them some years ago!

The village folk were called to an important meeting to inform them of what was happening. This was arranged for midday on the Wednesday, venue... the dining table.

It was naturally the job of the town crier to call out the news to his fellow villagers. It wasn't until everyone was convened that it was realised that the town crier had been sold the day before, along with the marching band and the chestnut seller. Well, in a village emergency, who do you call?



Thank you John!

We recently spent a weekend in Bakewell, Derbyshire. It was our annual family Christmas get together, where we hire a big house for the weekend and do “Christmassy” things.

It coincided nicely with the town’s Christmas festival and market and made a nice festive break, all that was missing was the snow!

The market stalls were very busy!



It is nice to see some of the local businesses getting into the spirit too, we loved the decorations around this hairdressers doorway.



Back home and things were moving along briskly, a lot of pieces have now been sold and are presumably finding a new life in a new village. The remaining villagers, although depleting in numbers by the day, go about their normal business.



However the people at the bus stop, waiting for the “Jolly Trolley” are in for a long wait as it has already been sold and taken out of service!
There is a strange atmosphere in the village, as even the buildings already displayed are now being uprooted and sold as selected by our visiting purchasers.



The young girl is disappointed, as she says to her Dad....
“ The toy shop! It was here yesterday!”

We have now sold almost everything, the display is dismantled and we have our space back. I will recount a few more tales of the “great sale” in the New Year.

When I have time I will total up the sales figures, without a doubt we have recouped a good percentage of the money spent pursuing our hobby. We have had so much fun over the years “villaging “ and sharing it with others. I also found a new pastime, the making of a village video, it’s amazing how a

village can be brought to public display via today's wonderful technology. If you have never videoed your village then give it a go! It's fairly easy with today's phones, and apps are available to make it look quite professional with only a bit of practice. Not forgetting advice from our very own Jim Peters, master of the village video!

I must end this episode, and get it to Bill for posting on the website in time for Christmas.

I would like to end by paying tribute to my Dad, Sidney. It was his inspiration many years ago, with his little set of illuminated houses that started the flame flickering and brought joy and fun to our family for many Christmases with our village displays. Sadly, he passed away earlier this year and we all miss him.



All that's left for me to say is Merry Christmas to villagers all around the world, share your passion, share the love of villaging and keep visiting

thevillagecollector.com

Cheers for now!

Phil and Sue
Northampton
England