

## Episode 3

I was never brilliant at mathematics at school, equations totally baffled me but I can now confirm that the following equation is true. Expanding collection does not equal reducing village.

All our village items are now downstairs, buildings, accessories, people ( to us they are people not figurines) and all the landscaping stuff. The room is a chaotic scene.

After some considerable discussions we decided we would sell off a few pieces that we are unlikely to use or indeed are just not practical any more in a reduced size village space. A couple of items we agreed on straight away. Poor old Eli and his Cobblers shop, it hadn't made the cut in the last two villages and was out of favour. It seems village folk were just not getting their shoes repaired any more. The novelty shape of the building was not looked on kindly by the modern planners and it was first on the list for disposal.



Next on the short list was really controversial. Santa himself! It had to be done but neither Sue or myself wanted to break the news to him. We knew it would send him spinning in circles.

“Santa Claus is coming to town “

We always had a bit of trouble “anchoring “ it down, the reindeer pulled so hard and occasionally an accident occurred and it toppled over. New Health and Safety regulations meant this could no longer be risked. Santa joins Eli on the naughty list!



Some years ago we bought a couple of the “My Village” pre formed mountains. We only used one of them a couple of years ago. Sue much preferred her own polystyrene constructions and I agree. It’s so much more satisfying building things from scratch, and gives the village a unique feel. They were going too.



Now the big one. One of our biggest pieces is the Olde Fashioned Chocolate Factory. One of our first pieces from when we seriously started buying Lemax brand and focusing more on the quality aspect of the buildings. Particularly difficult as it was bought by myself as a surprise present for Sue rather than an agreed purchase. This downsizing is proving emotionally challenging indeed. We get attached to our collection pieces, especially those we have had for a long time. However, sad as it was, it took up a large area on the display and was going up for sale.



Also, three non Lemax branded pieces were put aside. Although pretty enough and regularly included, we felt we could do without them now. They were not over expensive and provided a cheaper option to the high price brands.



So that was our first batch of items to go. The next question was how to sell them, followed quickly by how much for?

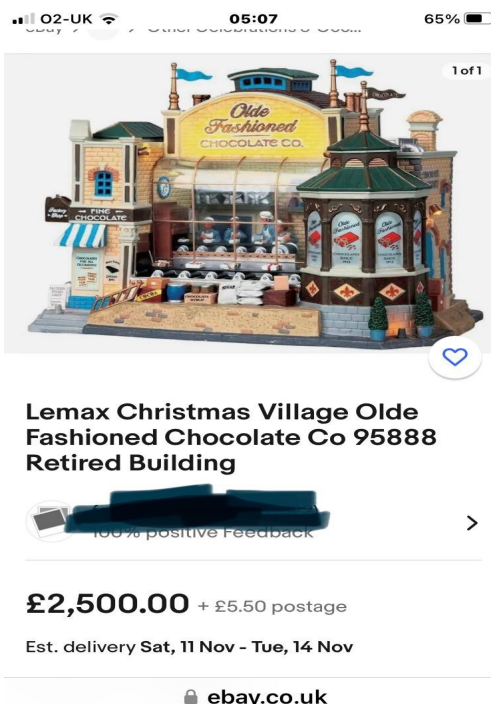
The obvious answer to me was E-Bay. I periodically look at second hand Lemax on there and it seems quite a thriving market with prices seemingly holding up very well. Sue however, suggested local "selling sites" via Facebook. I personally don't use Facebook so that didn't immediately strike me as the answer.

Here in England we don't have much choice in village brands, Lemax is the only quality name available. A few discount chains have cheaper and poorer quality lines but there are no Department 56 or Luville (?) brands available. I wasn't sure that local selling sites would give a wide enough audience for our target market of village collectors.

We haven't sold on E-Bay for many many years, and the local selling sites was a very easy and quick option. So that was the choice for our first sale of items.

We then had to come to an agreement about how much to charge. As I have mentioned in previous year's columns, it must be so much easier when only one person is making all these decisions! Although we generally agree on most things occasionally we are not totally in sync with our thoughts. We easily agreed on a price for all but the Chocolate factory. This is where the wonderful invention of the internet doesn't seem to help much. A quick google of the item came up with the following incredible result!

02-UK 05:07 65%



1 of 1

**Lemax Christmas Village Olde Fashioned Chocolate Co 95888 Retired Building**

100% positive Feedback

**£2,500.00** + £5.50 postage

Est. delivery Sat, 11 Nov - Tue, 14 Nov

ebay.co.uk

You will all have to do your own currency conversions as I'm aware of the worldwide audience. However as a guide, as I write this the following is correct £2,500 is equivalent to \$3100 or €2835.

As you can imagine I was slightly shocked by this valuation.

Then reality creeps in , otherwise known as Sue's wise words.. "it's not what it's advertised for, it's what it sells for, you should be looking at". Wise words indeed!

My limited computer skills were pushed to the limits but using several filters I discovered on E-Bay you could easily look at sold prices, number of bids etc for all Lemax items. I had just found another addiction! Everyday I would now scour these pages of recently sold Lemax items, making notes of the items we have and how much they sold for.

## **Lemax**

**Bread oven. 33.00+4.80**

**4 single battery packs**

**13.00+3.70 (4)**

**Lights/battery packs etc x8**

**31.00+ 3.29 (11)**

**4 lampposts. 10.50+3.00**

**Parisian stairs 50.00+8.19**

**Roasted chestnut seller 5.50**

**+3.00 (11)**

**Six light chord 22.00+3.29 (10)**

**Snowball fight. 6.50+2.87 (7)**

**Light up Christmas Tree**

**(yellow star) 13.50+2.99 (6)**

**Cocoa corner 12.71+3.49 (6)**

**5 Choir boys. 8.00+5.00 (1)**

Well, the items are posted for sale, let's see if anyone is interested!  
Next time... the people are coming!

Cheers for now!

Phil and Sue

Northampton

England

