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Celebrating 25 years of helpful service and successful selling



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- Secure Insured Storage Facilities
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- **Live On-line Internet Auctions.**

Our main offices and two auction rooms are located in Stanhope Street, opposite the Liverpool Marina. There is free on-road parking. Visits to clients in Wirral, Chester and North Wales are made every week. Evening and weekend visits to clients homes can be made by prior arrangement.

To book your appointments simply telephone **John Crane** personally on either **0151 709 5559** or mobile **07836 209995**

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Telephone Soon For Home Visit Appraisals



4" high tinplate Charlie Chaplin

day. So what was Charlie worth? He made £200 at our collective auction this week; he would have made twice that amount with an original box.

There is a tendency for new collectors to buy everything they see that they like on their first few visits to specialist fairs or auctions and then your spending budget has gone! It's always a good policy to browse the bookshelves and buy up-to-date reference books which are full of factual information before you start buying. You might find an experienced collector who will give you the benefit of his experience. Listen carefully and be guided by those who are well versed in trends. It will be time well spent. This true of any form of enterprise... ask those who know and don't just guess.

If you want advice on starting a collection we know people who can help you or I can see you to chat at our Wirral Office in Heswall on Fridays, tea and biscuits too!

I have a total aversion to quizzes of any sort but here is an 'Antiques Super Sleuth' quiz photograph. What is this object? It has its own leather case to carry it in your pocket!



What is this object?

And now let's talk about online shopping. Reputable antique dealers across the country now sell about a third of their stock online, even to collectors only a few miles away. Most dealers who have been in business for many years are extremely reliable and will send you additional photographs of pieces of furniture they display online. Some customers visit a dealer in person to check out a piece for colour or quality of restoration and then buy online. There may be a small delivery charge or the charge may be built into the selling price, but always worth asking first.

If you buy online, you have two weeks to return the goods if the item does not fit or the colour of the restoration is not suitable; you may be charged for the delivery and collection, of course, but most reputable dealers will provide the service willingly as they do want to see you again.

Though online shopping is certainly useful, may I urge everyone to support your own locally owned and managed retail outlets. Having spent time visiting the shops in Wirral towns before Christmas. I found the service was friendly and efficient and you don't have to wait at home for hours awaiting half promised deliveries...

If any of our readers are still waiting for the delivery of two modern cut-glass gin glasses and a bottle of Rhubarb gin ordered on the 18th December from the largest online retailer, then come and see me as I had them delivered to me on the 24th December to our Auction Rooms in Stanhope Street! Similarly, if anyone is the recipient of a top-of-the-range laptop computer I ordered I would be pleased to know where it is!

Finally, many people are moving into smaller and more manageable homes now. Please telephone me for advice on the removal process as it can be extremely stressful. We offer a smooth stress-free removal service and we do all your packing too and make sure that we keep to schedule to get you to your new home on time, and my Removal Gents will even make the tea when we get you there!



Cheerful and smooth house removals

I always enjoy chatting to clients about their collections and look forward to meeting you at our Liverpool Auction Rooms or our Valuation Offices in Heswall in Wirral CatoCrane.co.uk, Twitter @CatoCrane and now on Instagram... but for 2019 'Keep it Local' where possible and you won't be disappointed!

May I wish everyone a happy 2019 and look forward to meeting as many readers as possible in the near future. Just phone me on our local line on 0151 342 2321 for advice.