

Pedro, the Pickled Pet Monkey found amongst the clutter of an old style Indiana Jones explorer, gets a new home at the Monkeys Head.

When he was alive Pedro was a beloved pet monkey. The best friend of an explorer who lived abroad much of his life collecting and studying weird and wonderful wildlife, Pedro was actually rescued from a pet shop in the UK when his owner returned to the UK. Pedro was considered part of the family - having bed-time stories read to him (we believe his favourite story was Jungle Book) and even sending Christmas cards to friends of his family with his photo inside.



When Pedro died his owner couldn't bear to be without his pet monkey 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 in his home in Northamptonshire. Then Pedro's owner died and his friend and colleague began the task of clearing Pedro's owners 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 where he had been for over 40 years, on the dining room table along with one of Pedro's smiling faces in a Christmas card. Never before had Angela come across such a truly bizarre find – and her instant reaction was to scream. Although used to weird and wonderful finds as a Clutter Consultant, Pedro was a first. More concerning was how to dispose of Pedro. He was so well preserved that they couldn't bury 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. Angela's father who knew Pedro's owner said: "The monkey was the thing I kept, partly for sentimental reasons and partly because I didn't know what else to do with it."

Over the summer months, the Clutter Clearing Consultancy who Angela works for as a Consultant, have been searching throughout the UK for a good home for Pedro while he has been on 'holiday' in Banbury, Oxfordshire living with Clare Baker, the Founder of The Clutter Clearing Consultancy. Keen to ensure he doesn't become a freak show whilst also wanting to ensure he is appreciated and not once again part of someone's clutter, Clare has received offers of good homes from individuals, colleges and taxidermists. Pedro has become somewhat of a national story with offers coming in from people who have heard about him in local newspapers, on the internet and even Monkey magazines.

Mr Twiselton who is the guardian of Pedro has finally decided that a Pub called The Monkey Head in Northamptonshire would be the appropriate home for Pedro. Mr Twiselton will be able to visit Pedro, and Pedro will be able to be appreciated by the many visitors.

Simon Hatton, Landlord of The Monkeys Head said 'I heard about Pedro through customers and friends who all thought that we'd make an ideal home for him, so when I heard that he still had not found a home I knew it must be serendipity. I wrote to Clare and Angie to say that if they really wanted him to be cherished, appreciated and admired - and not just by me but all my customers – they could bring him down to his rightful home, The Monkey's Head.



Above: Pedro's Christmas Card Photo

Clare e-mailed me to ask me what I would do to ensure Pedro was going to be safe from harm, and I reassured her by letting her know that he would be secured with brackets 9ft above the bar, and that I intend to get his portrait painted by a local artist. We'd treat him like our mascot and talk to him every day and even read him bed time stories if it makes him feel at home. It seemed to reassure them - I couldn't believe my luck when Clare contacted me to say that we could give Pedro a new home. Pedro arrives at The Monkey's Head in Northampton on Saturday 4th October and we can't wait – we're organising a Pedro Party in his honour and a special Pedro Cocktail, pickled eggs, in fact everything we can think of that's pickled or called Pedro – everyone's welcome!

Clare Baker who runs the Clutter Clearing Consultancy say's they're often called in to help with unusual finds. 'We're used to working with people who need help with sorting through the belongings of a loved one after they have passed away, 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've had cats ashes before, stuffed cats but never a pet monkey. We couldn't believe the number of people who contacted us, desperate to give Pedro a new home. It just goes to show that one persons clutter is another person's treasure!

Pedro's currently in my downstairs cloakroom. The man from the water board got a terrible shock when he came to check the pipes in our street last month – Pedro's been staying with me while we find him a new home. Let's just say that my husband and pet cat won't be sad to see him go, but I'm sure we'll go and visit him in his new home every now and again.

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!'

'We've helped lots of people in lots of different ways and found many unusual finds, such as:

Snappy clutter	A Stuffed Crocodile – found in the bedroom
Reading clutter	Beatrice Potter 1 st edition (worth £6,500) – found in a cardboard box in the bottom of a wardrobe of a lady who was de-cluttering after losing her husband and moving into a home. She went on a round the world cruise before going into the home, thanks to her clutter!
Snack clutter	A tin of soup from 1947 – a little out of date it was given to a local museum
Loving clutter	A letter from a friend 15 years ago – it wasn't clutter as the owner wrote to the person again, re-established contact and ended up marrying him.
Banked clutter	An envelope with a Christmas gift of £5 from 1982 from a now dead Aunty - £5 which was never acknowledge and the Aunt never thanked
Valuable clutter	A bank book that was 27 years old and turned out to have earned £4,276 interest over the term.
Attractive clutter	A necklace made out of melted down silver farthings by Amerindians in the Amazon rain forest of Guyana, South America which was given to a lady on the day she accepted her missionary husbands proposal.
Chatter clutter	A full set of baby teeth.
Pet clutter	Dead mice – a very common clutter item! – mice often like to eat the clutter! And the ashes of a beloved pet.
Reading clutter	12 years worth of newspapers,
Shopping clutter	A war ration book.
Yummy clutter	13 year old chocolate.
Historic clutter	The deeds of the first owner of a Victorian house being de-cluttered – from 1876.
Hidden clutter	A cellar – the owner didn't know they had one.

Questions:

1. What's the most unusual thing that your readers / listeners / viewers have found in their clutter?
2. Would your readers / listeners / viewers like to meet Pedro and find out how a pickled monkey came to be amongst someone's clutter?

If you would like to meet Pedro, his current guardian or his new owner, this is Pedro's timetable for moving home:

Saturday 4th October 11-1pm

Pedro leaves his current home with Clare Baker, Founder of the Clutter Clearing Consultancy at 4 Queens Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Pedro and Clare will be available for photographs between 11am – 1pm.

Saturday 4th October 2pm onwards

Pedro and his current guardian, Clare Baker and the Clutter Consultant who found him, Angela Twiselton, arrive at his new home, The Monkey's Head (www.themonkeyshead.co.uk, 7 Abington Square, Northampton, NN1 4AE where his new owner and Guardian, Simon Hatton is arranging a 'Pedro Party'. All are invited.

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

0777 5897955

01295 275030

0203 3030 152

01604 269 129