

What to store in your keepsake chest

These are some suggestions you may find helpful.

BEFORE THE BIRTH

Write to the child.

It might sound odd, but a letter addressed to the unborn or newly arrived child giving an account of oneself, ones aspirations and hopes, whether connected with the imminent arrival or not, can provide for a very moving experience for both the child and adult(s) when opened 18 years later.

It might even be possible to post it on the day prior to the birth to carry the relevant date stamp.

AFTER THE BIRTH

Find a special box.

Things can get lost over time, even in the most ordered of households. Having a place in which to keep items safe is a boon.

Buy an assortment of newspapers issued on the actual day, plus a magazine or two. Bear in mind that some magazines of the required month are issued in the previous month.

Coins of the year can either be collected or purchased as a mint condition set. Postage stamps are another good item (both the ordinary and special editions).

Keep the hospital records, wristband identity tags.

THE EARLY YEARS

Put in first items of clothing such as booties, christening gown for example. Include any special gift from godparents.

A bottle of wine or port with the birth year dated on the bottle. This may take place over the years following the birth. Certain wines will be storable and some ports will keep indefinitely and (especially vintage years) prove to be an investment too. Port with the relevant date will take at least three years to appear and be offered for sale.

A lock of hair, early toys, samples of early drawing and painting are another obvious choice.

There are many possibilities...