

Make squillions RENTING your handbag

And six
other
ways
to earn
money
(without
even
trying)

by Claire
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STRAPPED for cash for your holiday or looking to renovate the house? Well, you can boost your income by up to £24,000 by capitalising on your favourite hobby or experience.

More than 1.2 million people in Britain are tapping into a second income stream, helped by the internet.

And we're not just talking about renting out rooms or flogging stuff on eBay. Here are some ideas of how to make serious cash in your spare time...

IF YOU'RE ORGANISED...

YOU can make £5,720 a year, based on working ten hours a week at £11 an hour ALWAYS fancied yourself as a Miss Moneypenny? If you've spent years running a home, you could have the skills needed by a personal assistant. And



Source: Daily Mail {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Monday 11, July 2016
Page: 45
Area: 665 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 1544084 Daily
Ad data: page rate £32,508.00, scc rate £129.00
Phone: 020 7938 6000
Keyword: easyCar

sites such as Time Etc (timeetc.co.uk) mean you don't even have to commute.

Barnaby Lasbrooke founded the company, which matches virtual assistants with people needing help running their lives. 'A virtual assistant is like a personal assistant, but works from home, normally for a small number of clients,' he says.

Once you've been interviewed and assessed, you'll be allocated jobs with a starting rate of £11 per hour. Tasks could vary from diary and email management to arranging travel and research.

IF YOU OWN DESIGNER HANDBAGS...

YOU can make an extra £1,125.60 a year, based on renting out two £28.50 bags for 26 weeks a year minus a year's membership.

YOU can only use one handbag at a time, so why not have your other ones making money for you?

Thehandbagrental.com is a club that lets you rent out designer bags for anything from a week to three months. You pay £5 a month membership then upload pictures and details of the bags. Other members can then ask to rent them.

They pay postage and a deposit in case of damage. Bags on the site range from a black Burberry Bloomsbury for £28.50 a week, to an Anya Hindmarch clutch for £27.50 and a pink Hermes ostrich Birkin for £150. Owners keep 80 per cent of the cost, so if you rent out a bag for £28.50, you'll get £22.80.

IF YOU'RE A DOMESTIC GODDESS...

YOU could make £24,000 cooking for supper.co.uk most nights.

DO YOUR friends rave about your dinner parties? You could try a

supper club, where you invite paying guests into your home.

Sites such as We Find Food (wefifo.com) help hosts and diners make contact.

Nutritional therapist Diana Green, 56, from the New Forest, hosted a Japanese-themed dinner.

'I had seven people, charged £22 a head and after 20 per cent commission for WeFiFo and subtracting my costs, I made £70,' she says.

Eatwith.com and vizeat.com offer a similar service. But if you don't want to host, dishnextdoor.com and supper.co.uk let you advertise you're cooking to people in your area, who can pick it up or have it

delivered. The chefs earn about 70 to 80 per cent of the cost of each dish. The company claims that if you cooked regularly, you could earn up to £2,000 a month.

IF YOU'RE HOUSE-PROUD...

YOU can make £798 a year, based on spending six weeks' annual holiday homesitting.

HOUSE SITTING might sound like an unlikely way to make a bit of money, but the people behind Homesitters (homesitters.co.uk), the country's leading home and

pet-sitting company, says there's been a 40 per cent increase in demand for such services in the past year.

'Becoming a homesitter is a highly rewarding role,' says company chairman Alan Irvine. 'It provides the opportunity to travel and to stay in fabulous homes in rural, urban and coastal locations.'

However, Alan does concede that while it's a flexible role, it's better suited to retirees or people who like working remotely. But there's nothing to stop you using your annual holiday for housesitting.

You live in the property, look after pets if required, water the plants, take phone messages and sign for post. Rates start at £11 a day for just under two hours of activity, but you can charge extra for pet care or additional chores. Sitters are also paid an £8-a-day food allowance and return travel costs.

IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT...

YOU can make an extra £4,940 a year, based on teaching ten people once a week for £10 each.

DO YOU paint? Maybe you're a brilliant violinist, trained tango dancer or talented seamstress? Set up a class in your home or at a community centre, and find your first customers online.

Wonderush.com is essentially a listings and bookings site that lets you advertise your class for free. They take a 5 per cent booking fee and will help you fill any empty slots, at a reduced rate, at the last minute.

So if, for example, you wanted to hold a two-hour still life drawing class in your home and sell ten places for £10, you'd make £95.

IF YOU LIKE TO BE AT BIG EVENTS...

YOU can make £2,995 a year, based on one eight-hour shift a week at £7.20 an hour.

FANCY rubbing shoulders with golf stars at the Open, checking the tickets of the great and the good at the Grand Prix, or serving strawberries and cream at Wimbledon?

Events all over the UK rely on temporary part-time staff.

If there's an event you're interested in, go to the events' websites, which will tell you if they're recruiting and how to apply.

Or look to recruitment companies that specialise in staffing events, such as Compass (compasseventjobs.com), who recruit sandwich makers at Hever Castle, bar staff at the cricket at Edgbaston and stewards for Warwick racecourse.

While some roles need experience, others simply ask that you're over 18, have some customer service experience and interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

The pay is £7.20 an hour.

IF YOU HAVE A CAR...

YOU can make £1,800 a year, based on easyCar Club estimates.

HOW often do you use your car? According to research, cars sit unused for an average 96 per cent of the time. The easyCar Club (carclub.easycar.com) says during that time, it could make you money, with almost no effort from you.

You fill out a profile and list your car with photos, details, a price per day and availability. Renters, who are vetted by the company, then see your listing and book the car.

The renter can pick up the keys from you or a secure key safe. The club takes care of insurance. For a 24-hour rental, I found I could choose from a £28 Ford Ka to a £127.50 Range Rover, all within ten minutes' walk of my home.

And the club claims that while owners make an average £1,800 a year, the most successful can bring in more than £3,000.

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