

TIME BANKS UK

TIME TO GIVE AND TAKE

www.timebanks.co.uk

Edition 19

March 2005

Time Banks Meet by the Banks of the River Thames

We are now a fledgling 'MOVEMENT' and we can confidently say that Time Banks UK is now geared up to help make time banking a part of everyday life, for everyone. If you are in any doubt about this then just talk to any of the many time bank people who came from across the entire British Isles to London for our first AGM. It was a hoot! – a packed hall, lively debate and a business-like attitude.

Participants, time brokers, staff, directors and well wishers celebrated the amazing growth of time banking over these past two years and marked the transformation of Time Banks UK into a genuine Network Organisation.

There are 69 active time banks in the UK, with a further 36 well on the way. They are revolutionising approaches to community building and civic engagement, leading on

social inclusion and health improvement programmes and clearly winning ground in redefining volunteering as a two way street.

However, these are busy people and Time Banks UK offers them a structure around which to organise and grow. Together we will watch over time banking and make sure it prospers in a spirit of interdependence and collective problem solving.

Time Banks UK can help cultivate a public identity for the network and keep all lines of communication active and open.

If you have not been in touch lately, either with TBUK or with your local time bank - then you

know what to do. To quote Ghandi, "we must model the change we want to see".

Be happy

Martin Simon
Executive
Director



Janetta Ross from Castlemilk Time Bank speaking at the AGM

The AGM was the perfect opportunity to launch the new Time Banks UK membership network and explain the rationale behind it and the benefits for Members.

There are three types of membership to cater for the different time banking stakeholders:

- **Membership** is open to all active and developing time banks
- **Partnership** is open to all supportive organisations who want to develop their involvement with time banking
- **Friends** is open to all individuals who are keen to stay involved with and support time banking

The overall aim of this system is to strengthen the network by building strategic links between time banks and TBUK, particularly by involving time banks in the governance of their umbrella organisation.

We also want to maximise the support we can provide to time banks through a range of targeted membership benefits. These include:

- 50% discount on selected TBUK publications including the new time banking handbook: Yes We Can! (normal rrp £20)
- 10% discount on new TBUK DVD (normal rrp £10)
- 20% discount on training for members
- Quarterly Time Banks UK newsletter
- Supportive deals with other partners e.g. legal support from the Pro Bono Group.
- Special offers for time banks and their participants – accessed through the website Members' Site and including: National Express travel deals, discounts at visitor attractions ranging from Chester Zoo to Glasgow Science Centre and free tickets to offer as prizes/awards for your top time bank participants.
- Exclusive access to members only area of www.timebanks.co.uk
- Right to vote at AGM and other meetings
- Right to propose and elect members to the Board of Directors

New Member Network for



For this first year (until April 2006) the annual membership fee of £100 is optional. We ask all members to sign up to the four Core Values of TBUK and also agree to update their webpage.

We are delighted that we now have 26 time banks signed up as members with new ones signing up every day. It is really important that all existing time banks sign their Registration Form as soon as possible in order to make use of the Special Deals, TBUK Updates and News pages that are now available online in the Members' Site.

To sign up simply return your signed Registration Form to Yvonne at TBUK so that she can email the unique login details for your time bank. If you have any queries on membership ring us on 01452 541439 or email info@timebanks.co.uk.

Over the next year, we will be working hard to build further relationships with supportive organisations to establish the founding network of Partners. We have already received initial interest from a number of organisations, including South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLAM) and Help the Aged and look to develop these partnerships effectively.

If you work with an organisation that would be interested in becoming a Partner, please contact us.

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Banking on the Mentor

As a Time Banks UK mentor who, like others, tries to work a time bank development role alongside a fulltime paid job, I often wish time banking could actually create more hours in the day – that's one trick I'd pay to see!

Having helped to set up the now vibrant Royston Time Bank in North Hertfordshire - a valuable experience - I'm keen to share that knowledge with others across the East of England. But doing so while still being an active Royston Time Bank member isn't easy.

Even when time is at a premium, there are ways in which the mentor can help time banks to develop, and at arm's length. Until recently, we had a



regional e-group which embraced active and developing time bank enthusiasts as well as other 'VIPs' from local authorities (councils and primary care trusts). I would have

liked it to have been more time banks led, but ...

For isolated time brokers, the mentor can be a proverbial shoulder to cry on – someone who understands the power and excitement of time banking when others around don't seem to.

Funding support is a constant concern for most time banks. At the Royston Time Bank, we have enjoyed considerable success with our applications – most recently to the Big Lottery Fund and with Global Grants from the European Social Fund. As a service to other fundraising time banks in the East of England, I can share that learning by looking at their draft applications before they are submitted to funders.

Sometimes, it may simply be a matter of referring one time bank to another when both are trying to get to grips with similar issues. I encourage all time banks to consult as many others as possible as they develop. We are fortunate to be part of one of the most supportive and sharing networks I've discovered in my 25 years in the not-for-profit sector.

Now I'm back to a new project for Royston. Once we've launched our Freecycle Network (see www.freecycle.org) I plan to turn Royston into the fair trade capital of Hertfordshire.

Chris Lee
Regional Mentor East of England