



Issue 20 December 2009

Festive Greetings from our Chief Executive **A Real Christmas in Colchester**

At this time of year, it's always good to take a look back at what has happened during the past 12 months.

Life has been busy for all at Timebanking UK HQ. We had a big annual conference back in May, numerous events and meetings around the country and we welcomed our new Chair, Marvin Aristotle this year too.

But here we are again about to celebrate the festive season and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and supporters for your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work during 2009.

Martin Simon martin@timebank.co.uk

Prison Projects Take Off

The new year will see time bank pilot projects around the country receiving small pots of funding to work together with prisons to demonstrate 'corporate citizenship'.

Prisoners will be engaged in a range of useful activities in prison that are rewarded with time credits which can then be donated to the prisoner's family, the local community or voluntary organisations to 'pay for' practical support and community building activities.

Fair Shares Gloucester, who pioneered the joint working within prisons, will be hosting a workshop for all involved in January. For more information contact: fairshares@btconnect.com

Volunteer Centre Colchester recently launched its annual Real Christmas campaign.

It was started 5 years ago mainly because people who are on their own find that their usual activity or social centres and other facilities that they rely on are closed over Christmas.

People in the time bank earn credits for the campaign by helping out doing the following:

- 1) visiting someone who'd really like a visitor over the 2 week festive period
- 2) being a host and inviting someone else to their home for a cup of tea and mince pie
- 3) donating Christmas cards - the time bank then sends the cards on to brighten someone's day over Christmas

To find out more, please contact: timebank@volunteercentrecolchester.org.uk

