



# TIME BANKS UK

TIME TO GIVE AND TAKE

EDITION 14 DECEMBER 2003

## Welcome to our new logo!

Welcome to the first TBUK newsletter with our fresh new logo and strapline which sums up the essence of time banking: 'Time to Give and Take'.

At the last Directors' meeting, it was agreed that we needed to update our image as we continue to raise the profile of time banking and co-production across the UK and compete for the attention of funders and the general public.

At the branding exercise, a range of Directors, TBUK staff, time banks' and Advisory Group members were encouraged to imagine the time banking concept in a variety of ways and explore its personality from all aspects: e.g. 'if time banking were an animal, what would it be?'

The final logo was chosen because it is abstract and simple but also dynamic and contemporary. 'TIME BANKS UK' now sits at the heart of an orbiting community of spheres which transfer their energy from left to right, right to left circulating like the exchange of time and reciprocity in time banks. The logo has a sense of movement and flexibility and will animate well when used in moving images such as video or the website.

The petrol blue font combines with the fresh citrus green to create a logo which is friendly, confident and clearly defined. I hope that you like it as much as we do and agree that it is vibrant enough to lead us positively into the next stage of incorporating time

banking into all areas of life. Our thanks go to the designer, Nadine Dixon on [nadine.design@virgin.net](mailto:nadine.design@virgin.net).

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the articles in this newsletter which generally look at various ways of promoting awareness of time banking and widening its appeal. I wish you all an exciting New Year building more and more exchanges in your time bank.

Yours in reciprocity  
Lynda Myer-Bennett  
Chair TBUK

### STOP PRESS

The third International Time Dollar Congress will be held in Toronto in August 2004. A brilliant event that's well worth saving up for!  
Details to follow.

[www.timebanks.co.uk](http://www.timebanks.co.uk)

# Launch with a gangster

Inspired by the Time Banks Glasgow Conference, I knew I was going to have to set up a time bank at the Café Church in Scunthorpe by myself. Bryan Webster, the Church's Pastor and initiator of the idea had been taken ill at the conference and would be recovering for the next 3 months. We obtained a grant of £5000 from the North Lincolnshire Community Pot to start us off, buying all the equipment to run the time bank. Two days before the launch on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2003, I was starting to worry. We had everything we needed to run it, including most of my friends already signed up. What we needed was a gimmick... something to set us off in a blaze of publicity.



*Dave Courtney signs autographs*

fundraiser." So I rang up the pub and asked to speak to him. He took my call, so I told him about the time bank and the Café and asked him if he would come down and do some publicity shots for us, as we were launching the next day.

He stayed with us a while, having photos taken with the volunteers and signing autographs. He told us he knew the real meaning of Time from when he was in prison during his gangster days and was blown away with the concept of time banking. He is a really down to earth character, who now writes books for a living not robbing banks!! He still pops in to see us when he is up here, and helps us with fundraising when he can. The launch party was a great success with loads of new people signing up to our time bank.

Sue Woodrow  
Café Church Time Swap  
01724 338777

# Time Banks + Sure Start

In March of this year Blyth Sure Start signed up their first Time Club member and so became the first Sure Start project in the country to join Time Banks UK.

Establishing the Time Club within the Children's Centre came with its own set of challenges surrounding child protection and the need for Criminal Record checks. Over the first couple of months policies and procedures were developed alongside other local Sure Start programmes to ensure all volunteers were strictly checked and understood the guidelines within which we all need to work. At the moment the Time Club is being externally evaluated by Barnardos.

Recently the Time Club has embarked on two new working relationships. One is with the local CSV, who support young people in training and volunteering in Blyth, and the other is with local Sports Centres offering swimming passes in exchange for Time Credits. These partnerships have opened the doors to new members who do not fall into the usual Sure Start boundaries and allowed them to offer their skills and knowledge to others while receiving something in return. The Time Club is working better for us than traditional volunteering because our members feel in control of how much time they give which is very important to most as they have small children of their own.



*Time Club's Toy Library*

Looking at the scheme, with Sure Start's community development targets in mind, Blyth Sure Start have found that adopting a timebanking approach helps promote values such as recognising skills, giving and receiving, and meeting local needs. "Promoting the Time Club

helps Sure Start, which is a national initiative, stay local and focused on local resources and needs. We like the fact that the Time Club emphasises connections between different parents and carers in the community, and helps us to avoid creating 'dependant' relationships between parents and professionals working for the programme." said Ian Robson, Community Development Manager at Sure Start Blyth.

Amanda Lyons  
Time Club, Blyth  
01670 798808

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# Spreading the word

Have you heard of the Fairtrade Towns initiative? Cities, towns and villages all round the UK are being declared Fairtrade Towns when they meet five criteria for increasing the range of shops, cafes, organisations and businesses that use or sell fairly traded goods such as tea, coffee, chocolate and bananas.

So what does this have to do with time banking? The issue first arose in the Moreton-in-Marsh Time Bank when a participant requested help with a stall to support the "Scale Up for Trade Justice" 24-hour campaign on 27-28 June 2003. Six participants took part, gathering signatures for a petition to present to the local MP and spreading the word about fair trade and time banking.

The link was taken further when another participant suggested establishing a campaign for Moreton-in-Marsh to become a Fairtrade Town, details of which can be found at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk). The values shared between time banks and the fair trade initiative are clear. All people's time and work are of equal value and a fair reward should be received by those doing the work. Fair Shares in the North Cotswolds was happy to support the Fairtrade Town campaign, and in doing so we have established a 'Green Housekeeping Policy' incorporating environmental and ethical values into all our activities. Time Banks aim to effect some change in the values and standards by which society operates. Expanding this into an ethical policy, incorporating fairly traded goods and care for the environment, shows that we 'walk the talk'.

Jo Goldie  
Time for Childcare  
01608 812338



*Poetry readings at Lambeth Walk-in Centre*

# Promotion by Poetry

The London Time Bank Poetry Project was launched on National Poetry Day, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2003. With funds from the Carnegie Trust and support from London Time Bank, time banks in London are employing the skills of poets and creative writing tutors in their areas to encourage time bank participants to develop their creative writing skills. The funding is for 6 months but it is envisioned that by sharing skills and knowledge, the poets / tutors will give the participants the tools to be able to continue the workshops thereafter on their own.

Time Bank participants and residents of Angell Town Estate have already produced poems that are to be published and sent out to all residents of the estate for Christmas time.

A book of poems from all participating time banks is to be published in the New Year.

Karen Lyon  
London Time Bank  
020 7820 6331

"Imagine no possessions,  
I wonder if you can?" John Lennon

# Picking Time

I was sitting with my friend Liz in her garden under her fruit trees, and she was telling me how she never had time to pick all her apples and pears, and that she couldn't eat all of them anyway, and how it was a shame that so much good food got wasted... Knowing that I worked for Fair Shares she asked if there was a way in which she could get rid of her surplus through the Time Bank - perhaps a good way for her to earn some credits? At which point I went into my usual spiel about how Fair Shares could not trade goods because it would give a cash value to the Time Credits and then they would become another material value based currency that would be liable to tax - like LETS.

Anyway we talked for a bit about this and that, and she suddenly said, "I suppose I could charge picking time?" At which point I said something in the region of "Wow what a jolly good idea!" We pondered this a bit more, and looked at how it could work:

The main crux of the theory of 'Picking Time' - which is what we decided to call her excellent idea - rested squarely on the goods themselves having no value and not actually being possessed by either the person they were coming from or going to. Let me expand - for Picking Time to work 'ownership' of the goods would have to be relinquished by both people involved as a precursor. If it isn't the 'owner' will wish to be compensated for the loss of ownership and we'd be back in the land of sterling!

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**COMMUNITY FUND**  
Lottery money making a difference

**ACTIVEN**

Once the concept of not possessing (which is a hard one), is overcome then the rest is easy:

- For fruit, vegetables, etc., the person who picks/harvests it receives Time Credits for the time it takes from the person who wishes it picked/harvested - Picking Time.
- For something being made or manufactured, such as a bird table, the person who makes it receives Time Credits for the time it takes to make from the person who wishes it made - Making Time.
- For something being cooked the person cooking receives Time Credits for the time it takes to cook - Cooking Time - etc., etc.
- At the **end** of the transaction the person left with the item then possesses it!

As with any Time Bank transaction there is no actual exchange of goods because during the period of the assignment no one possesses them! The only exchange is of TIME.

The easiest things to exchange are those that are surplus to the person who has them - Liz with her fruit for example. If they are not surplus they will probably have an intrinsic value that the person who owns them will wish to be reimbursed for. In this case my advice would be "why not sell them for cash, and leave Time Banks out of the deal!" Now where is my John Lennon CD...

Jon Cousins  
North Cotswolds Time Bank  
01608 812338

## Top Timebanker Competition

The 3 winners of the chocolate goody bags for themselves and their nominators are:  
Pauline Webb, E Greenwich Triangle Time Bank  
Cathie Barclay, Castlemilk Time Bank  
Rosalind Johnson, Leicester NW Time Bank

For the next December to February competition, we hope to attract more male nominations by offering the first Top Timebanker of 2004, a £30 Kingfisher Gift Voucher redeemable at B&Q, Comet, MVC or Woolworths. So perhaps a participant you know has gone out of his/her way to help with someone's DIY, gardening or anything and deserves the recognition of being a Top Timebanker. Send off your nominations today, before you forget, to TBUK or no later than February 28, 2004.

Rules available on request.