

TAKING FORWARD THE BEST OF OUR PAST

The identity of Wales is determined by the spirit of humanism. The best of our past tells us that Welsh culture is a radical force for social justice.

Time Banking Wales pays homage to the traditions of mutualism and the collective action of the South Wales Valleys that gave birth to Miners Welfare Institutes, mutual societies and educational settlement trusts during the late 19th and early 20th century. Professor Dai Smith recalls “there was nothing in this culture which denied change. There was everything in it which refused the dehumanising of people in the name of any ideology or abstraction”. It was a culture proclaiming that national identity devoid of human value is a flag of shame.

Early in the 20th Century, the South Wales Valleys translated vision into destiny. In place of fear, Walter Conway, Keir Hardie, Arthur Cook, Jim Griffiths, Will Paynter, John Dennithorne, Arthur Horner, Lance Rogers, and Aneurin Bevan laid the foundations for all who had suffered, and all who had dreamed of better tomorrows. This was socialism with purpose, a communitarian passion to learn, to share, to organise, to transform reality, “and so lift all of us together” (Bevan).

Tyrone O’Sullivan reminds us that “the Miners Institutes were built not solely as centres for learning but for a vision of the common good that included us all in opening new windows of light to discover new tomorrows. They taught us to improve our humble beginnings, and empowered us to express contempt for all those who dehumanise others”. The Institutes were never designed as the stately homes of the working class; their purpose was of a higher order, to civilise brutality.

This culture is not dull history; it is the bedrock for rebuilding communities in the 21st century. It can be re-invented through the reworking of communitarianism in currency form. Using time as a standard of value, time banking works on the communitarian principle that for each hour a person gives to building civil society they receive one time credit. Credits are used to access events and activities on a quid pro quo hourly basis.

Time currency is designed to build on the core values of our socialist past - mutuality, fraternity, equality of opportunity, and social union. Every time a transaction occurs these values are exchanged. Using this currency, people build civil society, subscribing to values that make the best of our past visible in the 21st Century. Through humanism we share the act of social value, reclaiming our humanity in the places where we live.

By embedding socialist values into a humanitarian currency they bring to life the vision of Wales as a national force for social justice and peace.



Time Banking Wales

Aneurin Bevan House
40 Castle Street
Tredegar
Gwent
NP22 3DQ

Tel: 01495 722799

Email: info@timebankingwales.org.uk

www.timebankingwales.org.uk

Charity Reg Number: 1123697