



## **Reciprocate to Accumulate!** – December '09

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### **1-. Social Capital at Work**

Interview with Mark Ellis, Policy & Strategy Officer at Newcastle Council. Mark spoke to Assist Social Capital about his involvement with social capital. His interest began when he attended a conference in Newcastle in June 2008 called Healthy, Wealthy and Wise.

<http://tiny.cc/Nzasb>

### **2-. Questions for the New World**

Guardian writer Andrew Simms argues that supermarkets have not only killed the rich diversity of producers, suppliers and shops that are essential to a resilient economy, they are also dissolving the glue that holds communities together.

<http://www.social-capital.net/showart.php?articleid=118>

### **3-. Nottinghamshire Council are Putting People First**

Nottinghamshire County Council is to create two separate strategies in line with implementing Putting People First (PPF). This represents an extension to the council's existing transformation programme and focuses on universal services and building social capital. <http://tiny.cc/Ov1TC>

### **4-. Looking after the 'Village;**

Don Aucoin highlights the importance, to our development, of the community in which we grow up, and questions whether he's putting back in enough himself. <http://tiny.cc/cnsJU>

### **5-. Unlocking Britain's Social Capital**

The Conservative Party is planning to turn back the clock by dusting off a Green Paper produced when Ian Duncan Smith (IDS) was leader of the Party. The ideals presented by IDS in the paper are finding new favour in the light of the economic crisis, and the launch of Philip Blond's (the Red Tory) new Think Tank Res Publica <http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/5555533/cameron-goes-blond.html>

## 6-. Trust and Social Capital in Contemporary Europe

Chapter 4 of the Tarki Social Report 2009 analyses the prevalence of four aspects of social capital (trust, networks, social norms & civic activity), with a special emphasis on generalised trust. [http://www.tarki.hu/en/research/european\\_social\\_report/giczi\\_sik\\_eng\\_2009.pdf](http://www.tarki.hu/en/research/european_social_report/giczi_sik_eng_2009.pdf)

## 7-. Events

### Dynamic Facilitation & Wisdom Council Training – 8-11 March 2010

A presentation on Wisdom Councils caught the attention of delegates at Assist Social Capital's conference in June, this year. Wisdom Councils, based on a process known as Dynamic Facilitation, are a creative process of problem solving to bring about lasting change. We are therefore pleased to announce that Dynamic Facilitation is coming to the UK. A four day course will be held between 8-11 March 2010 in London, and will be presented by Jim Rough from the US (founder of Dynamic Facilitation). This is a rare opportunity to learn how to promote, innovate and create through dialogue- don't miss it!

<http://www.social-capital.net/showart.php?articleid=121>

### Spirit Level Event, Newcastle Council, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Hosted by Newcastle Council and Northumbria University, this event will feature Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, authors of the recently-published book *The Spirit Level*. They argue that more equal societies are almost always more successful, so creating greater equality is not just about doing right by those who are currently disadvantaged or excluded; it's about the range of benefits to society as a whole and all of its members.

Anyone wanting to know more or book a place should contact Mark Ellis at Newcastle Council as soon as possible! [mark.cxo.ellis@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:mark.cxo.ellis@newcastle.gov.uk)

## 8-. Interesting Links

**Social Capital.Ning:** An online forum set up by Assist Social Capital for people to exchange understanding and share examples of how social capital can be used to bring about social and environmental benefit to communities. <http://social-capital.ning.com>

**U-Connect:** The University of Minnesota's own social capital building website. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/U-Connect>

**Gapminder World:** This nonprofit online venture is an effort to facilitate increased use and understanding of statistics and other information about social, economic, and environmental development at local, national, and global levels. Gapminder World enables people to "visualise" global development. Its name reflects its purpose of bridging the gap between existing data and those who seek to access and easily use that data for instant visual analysis. <http://www.gapminder.org>

For further information visit our website at [www.social-capital.net](http://www.social-capital.net)

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