



Reciprocate to Accumulate! – May 08

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1-. How do we measure up?

A local analysis of the General Household Survey (GHS) 2004/05 has been published by the Northern Rock Foundation and North East Social Capital Forum. It finds that across Britain, on average, 49 per cent see their family weekly and three-quarters are in regular contact with their neighbours. But the report suggested that very strong family connections can signify an inward-looking community with a lack of geographic mobility. While focusing on the North East of England the results cover the whole of the UK and make for some interesting reading.

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=601>

2-. Social Evils

In 1904, Joseph Rowntree identified what he believed were the worst social evils. A new report published by the Foundation set up in his name brings this list up to date for us in 2008. By carrying out a web survey of 3,500 people and also group discussions, this report reveals a strong sense of unease about some of the changes shaping British society.

<http://www.socialevils.org.uk>

3-. Social capital makes the world go round

The concept of paying it forward is as old as humanity itself. It turns up in stories like that of the Good Samaritan, in fables and folklore and religious belief around the globe. When someone gives you a hand, some unexpected aid, it makes your day better. It also makes your community better.

<http://www.canada.com/abbotsfordtimes/news/opinion/story.html?id=837b1a61-a19f-4190-9a15-82ceb1994467>

4-. Is there a connection between social capital and American Politics?

How much do identity politics matter in America? To what extent has Senator Obama really created a coalition of whites and blacks, and why does he do so much better amongst whites in some states rather than others? The data suggest that the answer to the last question is social capital, which seemingly trumps identity politics for a large share of voters.

http://blogs.princeton.edu/14points/2008/05/the_obama_coalition_winning_the_states_with_civico.html

5-. Measuring Sustainable Growth

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is the most accepted form of sustainability accounting for businesses. In addition to the economic and environmental issues, GRI also covers social capital. Transparent financial reporting took centuries for popular acceptance. With sustainability accounting, we do not have the luxury of centuries. In fact, we do not even have decades. We need to act today.

<http://www.livemint.com/2008/05/08230803/Measuring-sustainable-growth.html>

6-. Event

'Healthy Wealthy & Wise. The Challenge for the North East'

Newcastle, 23 June 2008, 8.15 am - 4.45 pm

A rare opportunity to hear, Professor Robert D. Putnam, described in the Sunday Times as *"the most influential academic in the world today"*, speak and debate before a UK-wide audience.

- Website: www.communityfoundation.org.uk
- Email: gill@firstcityevents.co.uk⁴
- Telephone: 07721 530115 or 01177 432745

7. Links of Interest

betterplace.org Find social projects from around the world or in your own neighbourhood. Projects you can directly support: by offering donations in money, kind, know-how, or time – as an individual or a company. On betterplace you can experience directly, in text and image, the concrete difference your contribution is making. <http://www.betterplace.org/>

ForwardTrack is designed to promote on-line activism. The system tracks and maps the diffusion of email forwards, political calls-to-action, and online petitions. The goal is to help people see the power of '6 degrees of separation.' ForwardTrack helps prove that one person can make a difference. <http://forwardtrack.eyebearresearch.org/>

For further information visit our website at www.social-capital.net

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