

Helping you keep up to date with all you need to know

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Hello and welcome to your latest volunteer update



Image: TradeAID Integrated, basket weaver, Akolgo Abaah holds harvested vegetables grown using soiless farming.

Fast Facts

Keeping you up to date at a glance

Share Capital has reached **£52 million** and currently stands at **£52.2 million** with **10,472** Share Accounts.

Volunteer meet up - London / Online

It has been sometime since we have had the opportunity to meet and in our catch ups many of you expressed an interest in having the chance to meet in person once again. We are therefore delighted to bring you our summer meet up event on **Thursday 11th August from 2pm followed by a meal at 5.30pm.**

The afternoon session will run from 2pm to 5pm and you can join us in person, at [The Hub Kings Cross](#) in London, or online. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet fellow volunteers and discuss future activities, resources and our website. Stina and Laura will run a focus session to gather your views on current and future marketing materials.

We would love to see you for the afternoon session (in person or online) and/or the evening meal which will be in the Kings Cross area, London. RSVP by email to volunteers@shared-interest.com for full details and to book to join in person or online.

Welcomes and Farewells

We are pleased to welcome Godfrey who is supporting us with Kinyarwanda translations and interpreting. We also welcome Lynn and Martin to the role of Event Assistant; they will both be supporting our presence at Greenbelt Festival later in the summer. Welcome Godfrey, Lynn and Martin.

We have also said thank you and good luck to Chris who has stepped down from his role as an Ambassador with us.

We hope you find the information in this latest newsletter helpful. We try to include something for everyone and your thoughts on what is good and what needs improving are always welcome - we would love to hear your feedback.

Tropical Storm Bonnie

This tropical storm recently passed over Central America reaching Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Mexico. Our Central and North America team have contacted our customers in the region and there has been no damage reported.



Volunteer Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts, experiences, perspectives and ideas in our recent Volunteer Survey. We were delighted to hear that 95% of respondents would recommend volunteering with Shared Interest. We also appreciated many of the comments shared about your experiences volunteering, some of which are shared below. We recognise that there are areas for us to develop, such as how we demonstrate the impact of volunteering, but feel that we are making steps towards improving this with the introduction of our twice-yearly Impact webinars.

I like to feel part of an organisation that achieves so much of value.

*It gives me a sense of making a difference where it matters.
The staff are fabulous and the other volunteers are amazing.*



Your questions answered

In this regular feature, we hope to answer many of the FAQs you may encounter when talking to friends, family or the public about our work.

How does Shared Interest decide on the interest rate charged to customers?

A: Our interest rates are calculated on two separate factors:

- the cost of borrowing the currency incurred by Shared Interest to be able to provide the customer a facility (the prime rate); and
- the assessed risk of the customer to Shared Interest. To calculate this we use a risk scorecard matrix, which consists of both quantitative and qualitative indicators, weighted according to their potential impact on the performance of a business and subsequently the potential risk to our capital, which is reviewed on an annual basis (the risk premium).

The prime rate plus the risk premium provides the overall interest rate for a given facility.

If you have a question you would like answered please submit it to us at volunteers@shared-interest.com



What's been happening

Volunteers' Week (1-7 June)

In case you missed, or want to watch the sessions from on Volunteer Festival again, you will find recordings for most sessions on our website [HERE](#). The whole three days were fantastic but a few highlights for us were reflecting on how to give our presentations a shake up with 'PowerPoint tips with Mike and Ruth', reflecting on how we use images and other content in 'Life through a lens' and a truly fantastic 'Tour of East Africa'. We also welcome your feedback (whether you joined the festival or not) to help us plan for future events, share your views [HERE](#)

Eco-Schools Conference, Lancashire (23 June)

Ambassador Susan ensured Shared Interest was well placed at this annual event. There was Shared Interest literature on a stall shared with other Fairtrade organisations as well as included in the goody bags given to each participating school. Our Little Book of Fairness, and associated materials, certainly had a good day out at this event. To find more about our resources aimed at a younger audience click [HERE](#)

Ruth and Mike's story - Blog post

Following a join event between Shared Interest and ECCR (Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility) in Fairtrade Fortnight, Ambassadors Ruth and Mike were invited to write a [blog post](#) for ECCR. In their blog post, they share their experiences and involvement with fair trade, volunteering and Shared Interest. Following previous activity in their area during Fairtrade Fortnight, they have set their sights on hosting an information stand in their local library during Good Money Week in October.

Greenbelt, Boughton House, near Kettering (26-29 August)

We are delighted to have confirmed our presence at Greenbelt again this summer. We will have a stall in the takeaway area of this fantastic festival. Thank you to all who will be supporting us there as Event Assistants. **We are looking to grow this team of volunteers so if you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about volunteering with us at Greenbelt please get in touch.**

We are so proud to have been named in the [NatWest #SE100 Top 100 Social Enterprises](#) in the UK alongside so many other amazing businesses.

We have also just been notified that the Society has been shortlisted for the Third Sector Awards in the Enterprise category so wish us luck for the 30 September when the winners will be announced.

Plastic Free July

[Plastic Free July](#)® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Everyone,

everywhere is invited to join the plastic free challenge by making one change to reduce single-use plastic waste. We would love to see how many plastic free challenges we can take and share progress towards these to encourage, motivate and support each other.

To keep you informed and inspired on your plastic free journey we're also curating weekly emails for Plastic Free July. Sign up for these in the link below.

Choose your challenge [HERE](#)



What we've been reading, watching and listening to

A round up of what's caught our attention recently.



LISTEN (30mins - 55mins per episode): [AN IDIOT'S GUIDE TO SAVING THE WORLD](#) In 'An Idiot's Guide to Saving the World', Gail Gallie and Loyiso Madinga will take you on a journey across the globe to meet the people on the frontline; those who are affected and those making a difference. They demystify the gloomy narrative and harness some optimism to leave you feeling empowered and armed with ideas. Each episode of this podcast focuses on a different Global Goal (also known as the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs).

WATCH (22mins): [GOLDEN SEEDS BY DAVID BOANUH](#) A story of hope, dreams, and yes, also hardships.. a story of the cocoa industry, as told by the farmers themselves. Beautifully captured by Ghanaian filmmaker David Boanuh in this short documentary celebrating a fresh, West African perspective. Brought to you by Tony's Chocolonely (the makers of the chocolate bar you received during Volunteers' Week), because every story has multiple voices, and a more equitable future is only possible when every voice is heard.

READ (15mins): [QUARTERLY RETURN - SUMMER 2022](#) The summer issue of our member magazine includes content about climate resilience in rural communities, expanding our reach with technology and getting vocal about volunteering. You can also read our recently launched Strategic Review, which shows our ambitions for the next five years. [Strategic Review Booklet](#).

Our mission is to provide financial services and business support to make livelihoods and living standards better for people as they trade their way out of poverty.

By volunteering for a fairer world, you make the difference.

Thank you.



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