

## A Time Bank Wedding

by Vanessa



In 2004 I started a job working for a group of 5 Time Banks in the borough of Lewisham. It was in 2006 that I first met Chris - at Rushey Green Group Practice! We were both attending a time bank training along with around 10 other time bank members from across the borough. We were friendly, and I picked up that he had a passion for music, but there were no sparks at that point. Later on, in 2007, Chris offered to give some of his time to the work of helping a group of residents in New Cross set up their own time bank, and it was during that summer that he and I became good friends. Our friendship got to that stage where Chris would enjoy making fun of my car, a lovely white Fiat Panda that I was very fond of, but Chris said was probably powered by a group of mice on a treadmill.

2007 was quite a momentous year for us time bank members in the UK. We were told that there would be an international time bank conference in Wisconsin, USA at the end of October and so a group of us in London decided we were definitely going to go! We met regularly as a group that year and planned our trip. There is another story to tell, one day, of how we raised the funds for the flights and hotel and our amazing trip to America, but for me there is one outstanding memory of that time. Chris had invited me to his flat around a week before our flight, for what I thought was a final planning meeting. When I arrived I found his living room lit up with candles but still I didn't catch on! A table was set for two and some lovely smells were wafting out of the kitchen. I pulled my notebook and pen out of my bag...and Chris handed me a glass of red wine. He told me that he was a trained chef and that he had made us dinner. It turned out to be a full 3 courses of beautifully cooked food!

Over 3 years later, in May 2011 we got married and we even had a wedding cake made for Time Credits and our reception DJ and our photographer were members too. I truly have a lot to thank time banking for and we are still together to this day and still time bank members.

