

SHOREDITCH CHARITY PRAISED BY PRIME MINISTER – NO.1 BRITISH NEW RADICAL

MyBnk, a financial and enterprise education charity has been praised by the leaders of all three major political parties for its inspiring work which is helping to change the UK for the better.

Lily Lapenna's charity came out top in '**Britain's 50 New Radicals**' - a list compiled by the Observer and NESTA to highlight and celebrate the people and organisations that are finding ingenious and practical new solutions to some of society's biggest problems.

MyBnk trains young people to run in-school, online saving and lending banks and runs workshops on everything from student debt for Sixth Formers to building financial resilience in care leavers and NEETS.

It was selected from over 350 applications by a panel of expert judges including Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion, Geoff Mulgan, Chief executive of NESTA and John Mulholland, editor of The Observer. The final 50 was published in the Observer on Sunday (19th February) and has received support from the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: 'The people and organisations recognised today have all made extremely valuable contributions to their communities - through a variety of things like helping people back to work, transforming their local environment into spaces all people can enjoy or by giving carers a well-earned break.'

'What they've done is inspiring, they've made projects happen bringing about genuine and positive change and they are building the bigger, stronger society that I want us all to be a part of. I hope their example will motivate others to take action and get involved.'

Lily Lapenna, MyBnk CEO said: "Young people can't afford to learn about money the hard way, there's little room in the curriculum and teachers say they need more support. We started bringing money and business lessons to life before the financial crisis, today 38,000 young people in 180 institutions have experienced running their own enterprise and learnt how to manage their money, that's radical".

Leader of the Opposition, Ed Miliband said: 'I am proud to endorse NESTA's scheme to celebrate Britain's New Radicals. This is a fantastic initiative that will highlight the work that goes on right across the UK to make Britain a better place and to strengthen our communities and societies. It has unearthed some great examples of people taking the initiative to create positive social change.'

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said: 'Britain has a proud history of innovation and creativity which clearly continues to flourish. The list published today is a fantastic showcase for the amazing and inspiring projects across the country, every one of which is focused on improving communities. The range and diversity of enterprises is striking, from improving the chances of some of the most disadvantaged young people to making places greener. I applaud the efforts of everyone who is putting their ingenuity to the test, turning original ideas into practice and as a result making lives better.'

Geoff Mulgan, Chief Executive of NESTA, says: 'Britain is rich in radicals who are turning ideas into practice - from inventors and entrepreneurs to community activists and public servants. Yet our celebrity culture often means that we pay them little attention. We hope that this list will prompt

greater interest in the many fascinating and inspiring things happening all over the country, and an overdue debate about what more could be done to help pioneering radicals bring their ideas to life.'

John Mulholland, editor of The Observer, says: 'It's a thrilling list, and a timely antidote to cynicism and despair. At times in the UK we seem to be deluged by negativity. Well, look at this list and take some time to reflect on the many people and groups who are motivated to do something to materially change the lives of Britons - for the better. I think the message is clear - if at all possible, do something. It beats doing nothing.'

Everyone who entered Britain's 50 New Radicals has been invited to a London reception to celebrate 'Britain's New Radicals' in early 2012. Each 'New Radical' will be invited to join a network and participate in workshops, supported by NESTA to inspire more radical new ideas that can change the world for the better.

For more information, and for brief summaries on each 'New Radical', visit www.nesta.org.uk/britainsnewradicals and to read more about MyBnk visit www.mybnk.org.

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Notes to editor:

About MyBnk

A Shoreditch non-profit social enterprise who delivers financial and enterprise education to 11-25 years olds in schools and youth organisations.

For further information about Britain's New Radicals, please contact Guy Bilgorri on 0207 438 2611/ Guy.Bilgorri@nesta.org.uk or Jan Singleton on 020 7438 2606/ jan.singleton@nesta.org.uk

About NESTA

NESTA is the UK's foremost independent expert on how innovation can solve some of the country's major economic and social challenges. Its work is enabled by an endowment, funded by the National Lottery, and it operates at no cost to the taxpayer.

NESTA is a world leader in its field and carries out its work through a blend of experimental programmes, analytical research and investment in early-stage companies

Britain's 50 New Radicals application criteria:

Britain's 50 New Radicals was a search for people, projects, organisations and services that have designed fresh and innovative approaches and methods (social, technological, scientific, artistic) in practical ways to transform our society for the better. These new organisations and services might come from familiar areas such as health, ageing, education, community life, the green economy and tackling challenges such as poverty, loneliness, young people and unemployment, wellbeing and regeneration. Or they could break entirely new ground.

The criteria for entering was:

- An entrant must have been operating for at least six months and show evidence that it is meeting its goals and is sustainable. It doesn't matter how small the project - a good idea can always grow.
- An entrant can nominate itself or be nominated by others.
- Entrants must be based in the UK and not primarily motivated by profit.

Press Release: UK's No1 Radical!

MyBnk named Britain's No.1 Radical org. by The Observer & Nesta
21st February 2012.

MyBnk

The judges were:

- John Mulholland, editor of The Observer
- Geoff Mulgan, chief executive of NESTA
- Martha Lane Fox, UK Digital Champion
- Alicia Navarro, tech entrepreneur and CEO and founder of Skimlinks
- Lucy Siegle writer and ethical living columnist for The Observer
- Indy Johar, co-founder of 00:/

For further information, visit: www.nesta.org.uk/britainsnewradicals