

The Revised Time Travellers Handbook

The Revised
**Time Travellers
Handbook**

by David O'Neil

*Dedicated to the living, the dead,
those yet to live and those who feel
they fit into none of the above categories*

Warning:
Contains language
And some scenes

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An important note from the author.

I was born one day, some years ago at a time when I can't remember but as I have often been told when I have forgotten what I was just about to say, "If you can't remember then it can't have been all that important," so I guess it wasn't.

So what is important? Is anything important? I mean really important to everybody. And why are really important things really important? I suppose things like food and water and air and maybe your actual physical self are important because if we did not have them then we would not be here. But then I suppose if we were not here then food and water and air and your actual physical self would not be important anymore and wherever not here is, we all have to go there anyway one day for god knows how long so I suppose important things are just made up by us to fill the time before we go.

Anyway, listen to me rambling on and on about important things when I could be talking about something else...

An introduction to time travel.

To all those who time travel, or those who are at all interested in time travel...

As a time traveller I do feel I have experience enough to try to write this handbook in the hope that it might be of use to anyone in the future, and the past or maybe just the present. I time travel on a daily basis – and an hourly and a secondly basis. Less and less often on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly, yearly, biannually and decadedly basis. I doubt I shall manage a centennial basis but there's always hope (yes decadedly is a word, I know, I invented it).

As a general rule I tend to try to travel through time in much the same direction as everyone else and at around about the same speed as everyone else. I have found that doing this can save a lot of confusion. However, on the odd occasion little leaps through time are necessary in order to ensure the smooth running of a potentially bumpy existence. A good example of this is when I leapt a week through time in paper form to demand of myself that I clean the kitchen as I knew I still would not have done it and guess what? Yep, I was right.

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Travelling through time is slightly different from say, travelling through space or water as space travel is easy if you've got a spaceship and travelling through water is only difficult if you have no boat and you can't swim and if you have no boat and you can't swim you'll still travel, just downwards.

Travelling through time responsibly and successfully takes a great deal of work and the ability to make split second decisions and the capacity to cope with the consequences. Time is one of those very fragile and vulnerable things that need a lot of love, care and attention in order to function successfully.

It is my hope that this handbook will help make your ride through time easier, a lot less stressful and a bit more comfortable. Please, sit back, relax and just watch the world go by as you enjoy your journey.

A brief guide to time.

time: 1 the indefinite continued progress of existence, events etc., in past, present and future regarded as a whole. 2 the progress of this as affecting persons or things.

A DITCIONARY

What is time? Why is it there? Who put it there? Why? When will it end? Is this all just a really sick joke? Have I really got no sense of humour?

Having pondered these questions and found most of the answers to be either yes or shut up, one of the things I have noticed about this thing called time is, while it seems to be as precious as gold it gets more wasted than I do on a Saturday night.

Everybody wants as much of it as possible. Some people like to save time (not in banks) (although time banks would be really cool, I imagine). Some people choose to beat time, as if it has somehow offended them (athletes are the worst for this type of behaviour, they even try to beat other peoples time). Some people seem to have no time even when they are on time but one fact has been established in my extensive research; everybody loves quality time.

Quality time is very easy to distinguish from other time because it comes in the shiniest wrapper and is much better for you than the bland, tasteless, mass-produced rubbish a lot of unfortunate people pretend to enjoy. A balanced diet with marrowbone and plenty of quality time increases your zest for life and gives you a glossy coat.

Time can be a terribly strange and complex thing. I am now a quarter of the way to of one hundred and eight years old. Next year (god willing) I shall be a quarter of the way to one hundred and twelve. That's four years ageing in the space of a year which doesn't seem particularly fair but that's by the by, it's happening, I'm accelerating through time round twists and turns and I don't have a licence, I've never had one lesson or even met a qualified instructor! I only hope I don't crash, not at this speed. I wonder if there's airbags...

There are many theories about time – how it all began, how it will end and other such subjects but most of them are very silly and purely hypothetical so should be taken with a condiment. Theories range from terribly long, boring strings of numbers and other mathematical symbols no one really cares about

or understands, to ridiculous sounding anecdotes involving Cher, champagne corks and worms! This book should help you, the reader, with careful study and analysis to be able to seek out and discern the true answers to these mysteries.

Whatever time is we are all in it, racing through it, travelling along on our own paths to our own beat. We choose to venture back and trawl through the past, dwelling on times that have been. We dare to jump forward and imagine the future, attempt to understand and envision the consequences of whatever path we decide to take. But we exist in the present, that is what is real – all else is a fiction designed somewhere in the depths of the brain in order to alleviate the tedious monotony of being a human being.

Human beings have evolved into time beings in order that they do not go mad and as a result we are left with an illusion which we can cling to when we wonder what its all about and if human beings are really just strange little chemical reactions inside massive atoms. We invented the lifetime – the concept which tells us we are who we are. I was born here, I lived there, I am now and I will live happily ever after and that is who and what I am... All seemingly completely real to me but all completely imaginary except for

three little words: I am now. My memories are real, to the best of my knowledge, but the only place they exist is in my head. My ambitions and dreams, however attainable, or my fears and worries about things yet to come can influence my decisions in the present but they are all things that are not yet so have not actually happened and again are just fantasies of an underused mind.

It is this definition of time that makes time travel possible not just for me, but for everyone. It can also enable us to alter our perspective and our outlook on life. I am in the present and I can change the future. Can I try to make all my prospective presents yet to come good ones? Well, I can use past experiences and life lessons to create some sort of a functioning decision making machine for use in my quest to secure a happy existence.

Time is everywhere, it is in us and we are all in it so it is probably for the best if we try to share it and enjoy it as happily and positively and equally as possible. Can we stand the test of time? I'd like to give it a bloody good go. I reckon if we all got stuck in, everybody as a team, we could pass any test anywhere ever. Is time on our side?

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Let's travel it and find out how we can stand the test of time in as dignified and good-humoured manner as humanly possible.

General rules for time travellers.

1) Don't try to change the past.

This is not because you won't properly fit back into an altered present afterwards as is the common reason for this rule but because you can't change the past and all attempts to do so will ultimately be futile and probably leave you looking very stupid. You should visit the past, study it, learn from it and take what you have learned back to the present in order to hopefully benefit from the experience.

The past is like a textbook, which can be glanced at for reference or studied in depth, but there are so many copyright issues there's really no point trying to change it or add bits to it.

2) Always look to change the future.

Any responsible time traveller should always be looking to improve what he sees in the future in a way that will be of benefit to everybody. Nothing in the future is set in

stone, except a few carvings that have yet to be carved. If, for example, on a visit to the future you see people dying or suffering from, say, the effect of pollution from road traffic then the present is the time to sort it out.

The future has to adapt to whatever happens in the present in order to remain an appropriate future that people can relate to. When people find they cannot relate to the future, it can cause serious repercussions as well as leading to overcrowding in mental institutions and prisons.

Once safely in the present you can lobby MP's to ban petrol powered travel and recommend to everyone you see that they cycle to work rather than adding to a problem that you know exists in the future and hope for the future's sake that it makes a difference.

3) Don't worry if people don't believe you.

There is a common misconception that time travel is not possible and a few people will

try to say you are wrong or that you are lying or might suggest that you are crazy and may

just laugh at you when you tell them that you are indeed a time traveller. Just remember the fact that they are obviously the loony ones because they too travel through time but are not properly aware of it, which is an exceedingly risky thing to do, especially when it comes to important things like decision making.

Many full time time travellers suffer from depression and anxiety purely because they are constantly being told they are wrong and eventually start doubting their own eyes and ears and brains and eventually, unfortunately, attempt to give up time travel altogether, which is usually a fatal and tragic set of circumstances.

- 4) Never attempt to transport animals through time.

Purely instinct-based animals are not designed for actual time travel. Their function is purely present orientated, they can

be affected by time but not travel backwards or forwards in it. Animals are perfectly entitled to attempt time travel if they are willing to take a chance on it but to drag a creature through the entirely human concept of time against its will is dangerous and often seen as very cruel (I tried it with my dog and she shit in the kitchen).

The most successful attempt at animal time travel was when scientists devised a method of sending fish through time using red lights and rocket packs. These experiments were ceased when they were deemed by a higher authority, very accurately and correctly to be absolutely completely one hundred per cent unsuccessful. From then on the practice was seen as a very expensive and now as a highly illegal and ridiculous way of preparing sushi.

5) Enjoy the present.

If I gave you a present (a nice one, not the head of a defenceless animal) it would bring you pleasure because you would think that I like you and you would have gained something nice. Pleasure is important because without it everybody would be

depressed, and there aren't enough tablets for everyone.

More and more people are getting depressed nowadays like it's a fashionable thing to be but the world does appear to stink a lot of the time so it's understandable that ordinary people are picking up interesting quirks like being suicidal, homicidal, lazy, obese, paranoid, schizophrenic, psychotic and angry. Need I go on? Yes.

*“Yesterday is history,
tomorrow is a mystery,
today is a gift,
that's why they call it the present..”*

A QUOTE

Remember, there's absolutely no bloody point in not enjoying the present, and once you have developed your ability to time travel effectively you will be able to look forward to the future you have shaped for yourself secure in the knowledge you are in control.

Common phrases and definitions

Time-flies: Small insects made up entirely of time. Wingless time-flies are commonly referred to as “time-walks”, not to be confused with “time-warp”.

Time-warp: If damp time is left for too long exposed to direct sunlight it can distort and twist. These occasions are known as “time-warps” and some more primitive tribal western cultures actually ritually worship and celebrate the “time-warp” with a strange dance routine.

Time-walk: A wingless time-fly.

High time: Sorry man... what was I talking about?

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Time machine: Time machines are very common place items nowadays. A modern time machine is usually small, battery operated and can be strapped to the wrist of the average time traveller. There is another sort of time machine, which is usually hung from a wall and most often feature barely clothed celebrities. They sound a bit like that thing with the holes in you drain pasta through. (My own personal time machine malfunctioned last week causing me to be a whole Earth hour late for work. Alas when I explained this unfortunate calamity to the manager he did not believe me and said it was the oldest excuse in the book).

Me-time: The opposite of sharing time. A time for self-indulgence and vanity,

thusly wicked and evil in the eyes of almighty god. Also a time for meditation and for one to better ones self, thusly worthy and good in the eyes of the lord.

Time-gap:

Have you ever driven to work and then realised you have absolutely no conscious recollection of some or all of the journey? Have you ever experienced a lost half-hour? Well don't worry if you have because it doesn't necessarily mean you were driving dangerously or carelessly (unless you are my wife). It is a common indicator that you are in some way being affected by time travel. A time-gap is one of these moments when you are at your safest because it doesn't actually happen. It is the "waking

up” from a time-gap that causes the event to ever have occurred at all. The time-gapper is naturally confused and alarmed because of the sudden disconnection he feels he has had from his physical environment.

No time has been lost because it was simply a case of not noticing the time markers we usually depend upon in order to perceive/register temporal duration, which is useful, sometimes.

Time-bomb:

The mechanism of an actual “time-bomb” works on a similar principle to the scientific method of the fish experiments noted in general rule four.

Hammer-time:

Stone-age time travellers used “hammer-time” in religious pagan practices as a silly way of

communicating with the gods. It was made illegal in 1973 during the great hammer shortage of the twentieth (20th) century. Widespread practice has since died out but is still reputedly occasionally practised in secret by the masons.

Extra time:

These periods of time are most commonly found at the end of particularly lazy football matches in which neither team really seem to be too bothered about winning. Giving them “extra time” allows them a moment to try, should they choose, to actually win the game. There are repercussions to the use of extra time; it can cause delays to television channel schedules and other such minor catastrophes.

Time-frame: A contraption designed for young time during hours of play to encourage balance and hand-eye coordination as well as depth perception, which is a handy thing to learn, especially if you intend to tackle such things as steps and balconies.

Killing time: Need I say anything other than this is also a highly illegal activity nowadays, often punishable by death. However, it seems to become more and more less illegal the more and more rich and powerful the offender is. It also helps if you have a powerful army and rule a filthy rich country; then it is necessary and usually done in the name of peace, freedom, love for all mankind and democracy.

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Time capsule: These are available at most pharmacies, however you do need a prescription. If you do happen to come across them, maybe in a pub or a bistro, from a dodgy man with one leg and a glass eye then I advise you exercise extreme caution and that you should mix them with plenty of alcohol so you won't remember the terrible things you will probably definitely do before you come round feeling the worst you've ever felt the next morning. If he tries to charge you more than a tenner for a time capsule tell him I sent you, he owes me.

Time lord: I like to steer pretty clear of time lords if I can possibly help it, they usually carry shotguns. They do appreciate nature,

only in the same way as a wrecking ball appreciates dilapidated buildings. However it is sometimes unavoidable and when I do have to exchange banter with a time lord I do it safe in the knowledge that not only do they have their title probably because of illegal underhand bribes to major politicians, but also that all they can smell is their own shit with their heads safely rammed far up their own arses. Bloody bastard time lords!

Time being:

The actual personification of time. If you happen to pass a “time being”, say, out walking the dog, fly fishing or maybe at the bottom of a cliff catching babies with a pitchfork, or maybe not, you would be able to ask him things about time, or alternatively

just point at him and say
“Hey look, there’s a time
being.”

Borrowed time: If you feel you do not have enough time there are bone fide lenders out there but beware there are some who would con you with extortionate interest rates. You should return borrowed time in a good condition and preferably with a full tank (in case a land war breaks out and they need a tank for self-defence. Half a tank is pretty useless).

Time zone: Separated areas of time used separately for separate activities by separate time dwelling beings.

Time code: Conspiracy theorists have for centuries discussed the “time code” in order to see whether or not there are

hidden clues throughout time which could lead to a better understanding of life's mysteries. Sadly the only real proof of a "time code" was flushed down the loo at one conspiracy theorists Christmas party, or so it is claimed.

Time-consuming: In some cultures, chosen competitors race against time to eat as much time as possible in the allotted time. That's a lot of time. This practise is becoming more common due to fears of obesity rates across the western world and is fast overtaking pie eating as the preferred sport.

Time-honoured: The result in the appointment of a "time lord".

Timekeeper: There are myths and legends, rumours, lies and politics in the world.

There are also things that are almost definitely probably true; for example the existence of the “timekeeper” is definitely probably true. He lives deep underground in a magical cave where he collects good and bad time in little labelled jars for distribution around the world at the appropriate moments, this I cannot prove although I did meet him one day and he called me a champ.

Time-lapse: I get these when I am drunk, and do not remember them at all.

Time limit: Don't drink and drive. Also don't go over the limit of time and die. It is not good. In fact it is bad, very bad indeed.

Time line: A line of time.

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- Time lock:** These can be very simple or highly sophisticated devices which prevents incredibly valuable or sensitive bits of time from being accessed by the wrong persons.
- Time off:** Always check the use-by date because if something is off it could make you ill, which could result in “time off”, which could make you ill.
- Time out:** The opposite of “time in”, which is a common misspelling of “timing”, which is a common misspelling of “minting”, which is often a very common misspelling of “minging”, which is bad and disgusting and should be avoided.
- Time-release:** In today’s troubled society, with all its poverty, terrorism and

politicians there are inevitably times when careful negotiation is needed to secure “time-release”.

Time scale: Time is a sensitive thing, which hangs on a very fine balance. In order to maintain a healthy balance the use of a functioning, safety-tested time scale is recommended.

Time sheet: These should be kept as clean as possible and regularly washed and changed, especially as and when you are hoping to get lucky in a romantic way.

Time signature: These have been used less and less with the introduction of chip-and-pin, which is supposed to offer greater security or something.

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- Timetable:** An occasionally useful item of furniture when there is time.
- Times table:** A table made entirely of one particular newspaper. Similar items include “Mirror balls”, “Mail boxes”, “Telegraph poles” and the “Sun screen”.
- Time switch:** A misspelling of the woman who does the horoscope and magic spells section for that particular newspaper.
- Time trial:** A period of great ordeal.
- Time worn:** The fabric of time can be woven into threads, which can, in turn, be sewn together to become “time clothes”. These “time clothes”, before they are even purchased, can be “time worn” for a “distressed look” which is apparently really quite

trendy and fashionable
although sadly very
expensive.

Other techniques used for
distressing fabrics have
been banned for being
insanely cruel.

Things to look forward to in the future.

The “Ultimate” razor from Gillette.

With fifteen blades for a smoother and closer shave, the “Ultimate” razor also features satellite navigation and laser guidance in order to reach even those places that are notoriously difficult to reach. “Gillette, the best a man can get” remains the catch phrase in spite of much criticism until well into the twenty-third century when use of the word “man” is eventually banned on the grounds that it is not only sexist but also very cruel.

Tesco value funerals.

If you are poor then apparently the best thing you have to look forward to is death, when money isn't supposed to matter anymore. The one problem is that even when you have expired you are expected to organise a great big party for all of your friends and relatives.

Organising parties for just one or two friends can be a costly business, face it, living is a costly business, three square meals a day seven days a

week, fifty-two weeks a year soon adds up and most people just cannot afford it. Buying value products can knock a significant amount off the constantly rising price of existence without necessarily compromising on quality as value products only tend to differ from the luxury ones in the packaging they are displayed in. Likewise, value funerals mean even the poor can afford that final send-off as long as they don't mind if it looks just a little bit tacky. Remember, every little helps.

Teleporting.

As it has done for many years already, real life will continue to emulate science fiction in order to believe it is actually getting somewhere. Like automatic doors and mobile telecommunication, teleporting shall not remain a dream forever. Unfortunately it becomes a very real nightmare instead, leading to terrible widespread commotion.

After a few initial teething problems (a few mutations and a couple of disappearances due to dialling wrong numbers) successful teleportation

is eventually achieved but that is where the real problems begin.

People are terribly impatient things (automatic doors and telecommunication prove that) and it is the most impatient of these people who celebrated the arrival of teleporting as it finally meant that it was possible to get from point A to point B in zero seconds. Thus it occurs that while the more patient folk remain quite satisfied with super-fast hydro-powered “Greentrains” the most impatient and irritable people are left to queue at teleports, expected to wait in an orderly fashion for their turn.

Even the most patient people can only be expected to be tolerant up to a certain point and unfortunately the result of the most impatient few of a notoriously intolerant species having to wait in line for their turn leads to chaos, the graphic details of which I shall not burden you with at this time.

Accurate weather reports.

Eventually you will be able to trust the weatherman, not because of advances in meteorological technology but because

ultimately global warming due to human twattishness leads to the weather becoming horribly predictable. This ultimately leads to the cancellation of television weather forecasting altogether, which, unfortunately, leads to yet another rise in unemployment.

England wins the world cup, again

Yes, it really does happen... and yes it's all very exciting... and no I'm not going to tell you when, it would spoil the surprise... yes it would.

Somebody invents something better than sliced bread.

He's a nice bloke and deserves every penny he makes from this invention so I can't tell you what it is. Or I could invent it myself...

Archaeologists discover ancient skeleton race

It's true, there's pictures in the Onion and everything! Just bones, no skin or anything. Apparently they used to be alive and wander around and stuff.

Proof of intelligent life in space

Keep the faith for it shall soon be known that extra terrestrial life exists. Some years from now some one who I think is called John will build a telescope so good that it can see loads of aliens all over the place and having a right laugh. They seem to be aware of us but I don't think they want us to play with them.

Everybody chills out

I've not actually seen this actually occur but it is something that I believe would be of benefit to everybody (see general rule two) so for no other reason will say it now. Peace the fuck out. Please. I don't think I am a hippie or anything but I do reckon simple common sense supports my humble plea.

If everybody at the same time suddenly for no reason decided that they would be nice all the time to everybody then I believe it would be safe to assume that somebody suddenly was maybe feeling happier because of it.

Ethical time travel

As I travel through time and witness others doing likewise I see a common thread running through everybody. It is something called morals and ethics. Everyone in the world seems to have them, although to different extremes and varying levels of sanity so writing about them with any serious conviction can be a very silly and dangerous thing to do – especially if you fear upsetting or annoying anyone.

If you sense a hint of any conviction in anything I say in this chapter I can assure you it was completely unintentional and I shall take this opportunity to apologise for any offence you may choose to take, although should you choose to take offence then it's your decision, therefore your own fault.

The ethics of time travel are somewhat different to the ethics of twenty-first century living. Rather than the relentless pursuit of personal happiness at all costs, successful time travel is dependent solely on the happiness you can spread throughout society and, in turn, receive, share and enjoy. It disregards such nonsense things as financial gain or social success in order to be able to fully concentrate on the real experiences you can picture and look forward to,

enjoy in the actual moment and remember with fondness and distinct lack of regret.

Although the general rules for time travellers do touch on the subject of transporting animals through time, it does fail to mention the ethical considerations of transporting children through time. This is simply because the ethics of having children in the first place need to be properly examined and discussed first. This book is not about that so it is staying well clear of the matter.

The aged. Ah, yes the aged indeed. The aged are always a good subject to discuss when confronting issues related to morals and ethics. Elderly people are fraught with many risks and potential damage factors. Age concern is growing globally yet we still have the aged in our towns and cities. The government should have sorted out the aged ages ago, yet we are confronted daily with aged people everywhere. Just this morning I passed an elderly couple in the street, in my street. Fortunately I was unharmed by them and I lived to tell the tale. This is why I am mentioning them, the only reason I am mentioning them, and as I have nothing else to say on the subject of aged persons I shall stop.

I trust by roughly sticking to a similar logical perspective when dealing with ethical debate you will suffer fewer headaches and lose fewer friends in the long run.

Time is Money – (a discussion).

Who says time is money? Why say time is money? Is time money and what is money? Actually the last one is quite simple, nearly everyone in the world has heard of money and some people actually have some.

Money n a medium of exchange
in the form of coins and bank
notes. Wealth or financial gain.

A DoCTIONARY

That does not mention time at all so a simple answer would be “of course time isn’t money, don’t be stupid” but simple answers aren’t always correct and are never very interesting. Discussions should be interesting and as this is a discussion I shall have to look beyond the simple answers and attempt to look at it from a more philosophical (what a difficult word to type, philosophical, philosophical, phi... oh, sorry) angle.

So, philosophically speaking, is time really money? I suppose I know how much money I’ve got personally and if the saying is true then

frankly it is very worrying so I hope the conclusion of this discussion is negative – I don't mean depressing I just mean I hope time isn't money because, well if it is then I'm not long for this world and Rupert Murdoch's gonna keep going and going and goi... I'm sure you catch my drift.

I'm not saying this isn't a fair discussion, that would just be a rant and I'm not drunk so I'm not ranting. Please ignore the rest of this book, I was pissed as a fart so it's probably all bullshit, this is a fair and sober discussion so I shall do my best to be completely impartial before reaching a conclusion.

It seems the dictionary believes that time is not money and the dictionary knows a hell of a lot about things that sometimes don't even look like real words. But it fucking swears as well so although I trust it on a lot of things, newsreaders don't swear and you're supposed to trust them.

I'm sure I've got a fiver somewhere so if time is money then I'll hang onto that fiver and keep it safe. Then I suppose I'll always have five shiny pounds worth of time, which must make me sort of invincible. Rich people die all the time though, so that seems to indicate that time is not

money unless I've just accidentally stumbled over proof that there is indeed an afterlife. I hope not, I don't need all the deaths of adventurers who may commit suicide to explore the afterlife on my conscience (please don't kill yourself).

Apparently money is the route of all evil and if that is true then it means time is leading to some thing unpleasant, although in my experience some supposedly evil things can actually feel quite pleasant. Apparently money isn't actually the route of all evil at all as it is always misquoted and the saying is actually "money is a route to *many* evils" which, unfortunately, makes the quote much vaguer and therefore much harder to analyse in relation to the issue currently under discussion.

If time is a route to many evils then it seems there could be lots more heartache to look forward to and makes you wonder what the other routes are to these many evils and whether or not there are any routes that actually avoid evil altogether, which consequently leads you to question whether a route avoiding evil altogether would or would not be very boring and therefore be worth avoiding. But I digress, is time money? Philosophically?

As philosophy is based upon opinion and imagination, I suppose we can never come to a hundred per cent conclusive answer.

We could compromise and try to prove beyond reasonable doubt whether or not time is money till the cows come home (which is approximately five o'clock), or we could do a world wide survey of whether or not (philosophically) time is money but that would be pointless and a complete waste of time so I suppose it will have to be left for you to form your own decision on the matter. Sorry.

Time will tell (a discussion).

Time will tell what, exactly? To whom shall it tell whatever it is that it has to tell? Wherefore (why) shall it tell, exactly, whomever it shall tell whatever it is that it has to tell? Wherefore do I care and wherefore do I use such silly olde wordes?

We may not find out, although it certainly implies that we may. There may be no point discussing these questions although there could possibly be a point. Either way, point or not, I shall discuss them.

It seems there is a widely believed conspiracy theory concerning time, which concerns the “time code” (see common phrases and definitions). Conspiracy theories now exist about nearly everything. From huge world events concerning bombs and politics to lesser issues, like whether you really are eyeing up other women when you’re out with your wife, if something is mentioned or questioned there is always the possibility of conspiracy, so let us embrace that possibility until we are really bored and don’t want to discuss it any more.

What are the mysteries of time? I suppose that if we knew then they would not be mysteries any more but what is the point of a mystery if nobody can be bothered to solve it. It would be like an unused Rubix Cube, or an unopened jigsaw, totally useless to anyone. As a responsible time traveller I feel duty bound to explore the time code, and I have nothing better to do, well I probably do have better things to do, there are people dying out there, oh the guilt... In spite of my conscience I shall continue.

Unfortunately I know nothing of the mysteries of time, and not too much about lots of things of which I know nothing about. To me they are like a colourless Rubix Cube, useful as a one-piece jigsaw so to think about deciphering an invisible code is quite a mind boggling task to contemplate and apologise as I have now got a headache and shall have to end this discussion for medical reasons.

Some unknown facts about time.

I myself now travel time laden with the terrible knowledge of how things ultimately will occur. I bear my burden as one that has possibly had a little too much to drink but with a reluctant acceptance of a very grim responsibility. So it is with a heavy heart I now impart to you this secret-to-be knowledge and hope that upon hearing it you will see the very real need for you to enjoy the little time there really is while there is a little time left for you to do it.

Time was actually discovered by a Mr Timothy Elliot of Derbyshire, England whilst he was out digging for worms to use as fishing bait one fine evening in the summer of 2247AD and has dribbled backwards ever since in order to fill some serious gaps and also to confuse humankind. This cannot be proved or disproved until one fine evening in the summer of 2247AD so you will just have to trust me until then.

At precisely the same moment Mr Timothy Elliot of Derbyshire, England was digging for worms to use as fishing bait, the Timekeeper (as mentioned in the common phrases and definitions) and myself were busy celebrating an

especially good, well the best ever year for Champagne.

At precisely the same moment one unfortunate worm (whom we shall name Bert on account no one ever knew his real name) was innocently wriggling up through the ground towards the surface of the planet Earth. Bert was but a simple worm, friendly and genuine. Environmentally aware and eco-friendly Bert was a threat to no one.

Upon opening yet another bottle of the finest ever Champagne known to man, the cork happened to go rather wayward rather quickly and rather unfortunately rather directly towards a shelf full of rather dusty jars. This upset a few of the dusty jars who proceeded to end their useful existences by leaping in a suicidal fashion to a rather shatteringly hard floor, spilling their contents through a rather small crack in the rocks.

At precisely the same moment poor Bert came to be visited by a rather strange vision more vast than the known universe, with knowledge from the dawn of time and a depth of understanding unknown to any worm. It was then that fate or

really shitty luck decided that he finally meet Mr Timothy Elliot of Derbyshire, England.

Thus time arrived on the surface of the Earth, was immediately impaled on a barbed hook, half drowned in a fast flowing river then eaten by a hungry trout. The trout, after an epic struggle ultimately gave up his will to fight and was pulled from the river to be unceremoniously thrown in a plastic box and then immediately eaten by a very naughty collie dog named Cher.

Roughly half a packet of cigarettes later, some distance below much confused happenings and distress upon the Earth, the Timekeeper was sitting weeping pitifully into an empty glass. Having used every taboo word in every known language as well as a few rather disgusting and insulting new ones he was dejected as he knew that he had failed; time was lost, his job was lost.

Cher the naughty collie dog had since escaped into a sheep field and began her favourite past time of sheep worrying, much to the annoyance of farmer Jones who, without second thought raised his shotgun and made a terminal example of the naughty pup.

Not knowing what else to do or say to console or comfort the Timekeeper in his obvious distress I decided the best and most sensible course of action was to select a new bottle of 2247AD, refill our glasses, and raise a toast.

“To the end of time!” I said.

To this the Timekeeper smiled at me, raised his glass and said, “Thanks mate, you’re a champ! To the end of time...”

These facts are proof of which, if proof is needed, that time actually started and finished at the same time. Which, I concede must be quite confusing for the average anyone who was not actually there at the time but fortunately makes very much sense to me as both a genius and an eye witness.

Mr Timothy Elliot happily spent the rest of his days completely unaware of the phenomenally huge happening that had happened. Cher the naughty collie dog went, despite her sins, to doggy heaven. Farmer Jones’ unworried sheep eventually turned on him savagely and viciously during shearing, resulting in his brutal death.

The Revised Time Travellers Handbook

Bert was reincarnated as a Buddhist and the Timekeeper, so I am told, got over the end of time and took early retirement with very good grace, a sparkly gold watch and plenty more 2247AD.

What to do now? An outroduction.

At this point I would really like to have a casual whistle thing going on as I stroll confidently away into the mists of time. As this is a book I have found it hard to translate a casual whistle into printable words. I'm sure you appreciate my efforts but it was a fruitless venture and well worth giving up on.

Instead I shall leave you with some astounding wisdom, as that is an authorly thing to do, I reckon. Finding astoundingly wise things to say may prove difficult and could seriously delay the release of this handbook. Instead I shall try to make something up that sounds wise and may astound, possibly (hopefully) with unnecessary gratuitous shock value.

To be wise is a very good thing to be. Wise comments, for example "don't eat yellow snow" have become rather cliché and boring. The wisdom I shall impart will be as follows...

Write about wisdom in italics because it looks wise.

AUTHORLY NUGGET OF WISDOM

Now I must attempt to astound you. I could do this by telling you that the world is going to end tomorrow, but that would ruin the surprise. I could also achieve astonishment by telling you that the world has already ended but we were to stupid to notice. But the truth has always been difficult for the human brain to fathom so I'll not do that. Instead I shall conjure up a blatant dirty lie.

My penis is three times the size of the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building and a medium sized carrot put together. It is as wide as the M1 and has bridges over it so enemy aircraft cannot land on it.

BLATANT DIRTY LIE

*****NOT THE END*****

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Keep a look out for

The Illustrated Time Travellers Handbook
The Interactive Time Travellers Handbook
The Unwritten Time Travellers Handbook
The Low Calorie Time Travellers Handbook
The Uncut Time Travellers Handbook*
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“This is the worst pile of b*lls**t I have ever
read. Burn it...”

AUTHOR’S EX-GIRLFRIEND