

HOW TO... BY LINDA GRAY



1,001 THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Welcome to the pages that help make life simpler, easier and—we hope—more fun!



How to BEAT REDUNDANCY BLUES

LIFE CAN SEEM POINTLESS

without a reason to get out of bed. “But it’s the job that’s redundant, not you. See it as an opportunity and you won’t feel so powerless,” says business mentor Sylvia Marshall, who founded property website cosyhomesonline.com after being “let go”. So set the alarm and spend a working day planning your new life.

2 HRS Follow the money. Claim redundancy pay if you were employed for over two years, insurance (on PPI policies, mortgages and credit cards), notice

and holiday pay. Apply for Jobseeker’s Allowance and use any redundancy money to pay off debts. Then cut expenses to the bone—do you really need Sky?

2 HRS Search for jobs. Polish your CV and hone interview skills while scouring websites, agencies and vacancies. “Don’t dismiss lesser jobs, or you may never work again,” warns Marshall.

Government career-development loans are available if you need to update your skills, but beware of paying for courses that go nowhere.

1 HR Network. A third of people who lose their jobs find another through personal contacts, so ask friends, ex-colleagues and LinkedIn buddies for leads. Job clubs (gbjobclubs.org) can also give useful tips.

1 HR Volunteer. “Find something you enjoy and feel valued in,” says Marshall. It’ll get you out of the house, provide contacts and even kick-start a new career.

2 HRS Live your dream. “There couldn’t be a better time to set up on your own, and you can do it at any age—in fact, the over-50s are more likely to succeed than younger people,” says Marshall. The Government’s New Enterprise Allowance will supply money and mentors (see dwp.gov.uk). But you don’t need funding, as Marshall points out in her e-book *Zero to a Million*.

“Zero means that all you put in is time. If you want to run a cake shop or joinery business, start by selling at local fairs to see if there’s a demand. Decide on your objectives and strategy, drive it by effort not loans, and *never* put your home up as security. Even if you only make £10, you’ll feel empowered.”