Milton Keynes Citizen

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businessnews

Should you be going to work tomorrow?

IN what could be the largest mass absence from work for a generation, an estimated five million people will not be going to work tomorrow.

None of them will be calling sickies, skiving or making excuses. In fact, their bosses may even be joining them and taking work home for the day, on National Work from Home Day 2009, Friday May 15.

Work Wise Week promotes smarter working practices, such as flexible, remote and mobile working, and working from home. It aims to give half the working population, some 14 million people, the opportunity to work smarter by 2011.

The week includes Mobile Office Day and Remote Office Day to encourage people to work while on the move and to use remote working instead of travelling to a central office. Work from Home Day is to persuade people to work from home, instead of commuting to their place of work.

Remote Employment, a web service dedicated to flexible working, believes the traditional 'office' is on the verge of a workplace revolution.

Outdated working cultures and traditions will break down. They are wasteful in terms of resources and time, damaging to the environment and global warming, unhealthy for worker wellbeing, and frustrating for traffic congestion and public transport overcrowding.

Paula Wynne, co-founder of Remote Employment and the Remote Worker Awards, advocates the notion of nine to five might gradually vanish, with staff working around their home commitments.

Offices will probably disappear and instead mini business centres could spring up near satellite offices. Increasingly people will work from home as organisations cut down their overheads on office space and use remote locations as the new-age workplace.

There are already around 3.1 million people working from home in the UK and this is expected to more than double by 2012. To coincide with National Work from Home Day, Remote Employment has launched The Home Worker Awards to highlight how home working benefits the British public and their working life.

For more information, browse *www.remoteemployment.com* or *www.workwiseuk.org*. Enter The Remote Worker Awards at *www.remoteworkerawards.com* for your chance to win.