



Newsletter

February 2010

Events

Saturday March 20th between 3.00pm and 4.00pm at the Blue Moon café (venue to be confirmed). Bring and trade your unwanted jewellery items/fashion accessories.

Saturday 17th April 2-4pm plant sale at Rosie's (545). Light refreshments provided. Please bring plants, seeds or other items to trade. Meet other members and set up future trades. Bring a non-LETS friend who might like to join. Please reply to Rosie (545) if you can come.

Saturday May 15th between 2.30pm and 4.30pm at Catherine's (431). Bring and trade general unwanted gifts etc.

Sunday July 11th at 2.00pm **Open Forum** meeting followed by "Speed Trading".

If you'd like to host an event, do let us know. It could simply be a social event, a general trading event, or a trading event with a theme – e.g. plants, clothes, crafts etc.

6 people turned up to Kathryn's coffee morning at the end of November and enjoyed a selection of cakes and teas. There were some beautiful hand-made cards on sale as well as some delicious coffee and rum truffles.

Co-ordinating Team Report

Hello everyone and welcome to the February newsletter. A special welcome to those who have recently joined LETS.

If you receive this mailing by email, you should also be getting an email version of the directory at the same time. We had a few teething problems getting the first one together, which, coupled with the bad weather and a temporary lack of internet connection at the office meant that it came out 2 months later than planned. Many apologies for that – at least you had your paper copies to refer to.

The email version of the directory does not include members' names and addresses as some people weren't happy with this information going out over the internet. Therefore you will still be receiving members' contact details through the post, along with your statement.

Credit Slips

Please take care to fill in all the required details on your credit slips when you trade. Please, please remember to fill in the date (including the year). We do get queries about previous trades and having an accurate date helps us to locate the transactions. Please send in your slips promptly after the trade has taken place. The office staff reserve the right not to process credit slips that are more than a year old. If you need more credit slips, they can be downloaded from our website www.sheffieldlets.org.uk or let us know and we can post some out to you.

Catherine (431)

12 people attended the book swap at the Blue Moon in January. It was good to see some new faces and one or two people who'd not been to an event recently. Loads of books were traded – 24 transactions in all!

Website

If you've not visited the website recently, do check it out www.sheffieldlets.org.uk. The table below shows how many visits the website has received in the last 3 months.

Month	Visits
Nov-09	82
Dec-09	67
Jan-10	83

Office

The office continues to be staffed from 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings for at least half an hour, sometimes longer if we have lots to do. If you need to contact us, please do so by 8.00pm on a Wednesday to guarantee getting a response the same week. Due to the recent adverse weather conditions, we were not able to get to the office each week in January. We also had problems with the internet which meant we couldn't access email for a couple of weeks. This problem now seems to have sorted itself out. Let's hope it stays that way!

Next mailing: May 2010

Deadline for newsletter inclusions:

Wednesday April 28th 2010

Envelope stuffing: Wednesday May 19th. Contact the office if you'd like to help!



Publicity and Membership

Very quiet on the publicity front over the last three months. So again a postcard is enclosed with mailings for you to put up in a local venue near or to encourage somebody you know to join the system.

Sheffield LETS, c/o 49 Steade Road,
Sheffield, S7 1DS. Tel: 07984
038673
Email: info@sheffieldlets.org.uk



Trade in stones, the
alternative to cash—
LETS do it!

While decluttering recently I came across an old LETS directory dated November 2007. During those two years 32 new members joined the system and 3 lapsed members rejoined. Of those 32 new members 16 had left the system and 7 other members who had joined before November 2007 had also left. This high drop out rate is worrying and the co-ordinating team is concerned about how we can retain and increase membership. Last year and this month we invited ex-members to participate in an online survey asking for feedback on the system and their reasons for leaving. By acting on this feedback we hope to encourage more members to trade and hopefully stay on the system for years to come. There is an article on the survey elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also an interesting comparison between the two directories is the increase in mobile phone contacts and internet addresses

Keeping in touch

How do you want to be contacted or kept informed of events? This month I have contacted members by phone, email and text. We try to email from the office before an event. Unfortunately we were unable to do this because of the icy conditions. If you have a strong preference contact the office by phone or email.

Maggie (582)

Directory Entries

Did you know that you can add

to or amend your directory entry at any time during the year? Please note that only 43 characters (including spaces) are available in the descriptions of offers or requests, so do keep each individual offer brief. You can list as many things as you like. If you want to give a fuller description than can be done in 43 characters, please use the facility on the Yahoo group, or write a bit about yourself for the next newsletter.

Need to earn some stones? Why not have a look through other people's requests and see if you can supply any of the goods or services they need? It might give you some new ideas about skills you have that you've not offered on LETS, and your offer might fill a desperate need for someone. You've nothing to lose.

Travel Expenses

Do you live some distance from other LETS members? Do you

want to trade with someone who lives quite a way from you? Feedback from some former LETS members has indicated that some people are finding it difficult to trade because of the distances involved. Please do consider offering someone travel expenses if they have to come a long way to get to you to do a trade! And please do feel free to request contributions towards travel costs. Within the Sheffield area a day saver on the First buses is now over £4.00 and one on the trams/Stagecoach buses is £3.00, costs which people on low incomes can find prohibitively expensive.

Saturday March 20th between 3.00pm and 4.00pm at the Blue Moon café (venue to be confirmed). Bring and trade your unwanted jewellery items/fashion accessories.

Saturday 17th April 2-4pm plant sale at Rosie's (545). Light refreshments provided. Please bring plants, seeds or other items to trade. Please reply to Rosie (545) if you can come.

Saturday May 15th between 2.30pm and 4.30pm at Catherine's (431). Bring and trade general unwanted gifts etc.

OFFERS AND REQUESTS

FOR SALE

Amazing juicer will take whole fruit or vegetables to produce pure juices in a jug. Unwanted gift hence cheap price £20 plus 10 stones. Worth £60.

Contact Maggie (582) could deliver

WANTED

A paper shredder small version capable of taking 2 or 4 sheets of A4 paper at a time. Will pay cash and stones

Contact Maggie (582) will collect

WANTED

People who would like to be paid 10 stones to sit still for a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. I'd like to practise drawing portraits and need willing models. You only need to sit still for half an hour at a time. I can provide tea/coffee and biscuits to keep you going.

Barbara (407)

WANTED

Person with IT skills to take on the maintenance of our website (www.sheffieldlets.org.uk), Barbara (407) would be very happy to show you how it's done now. It's a very simple website to maintain. Mostly, changes happen only when a newsletter comes out.

Please get in touch with the office, or with Barbara (407) if you think you might be interested—it's a good way to earn some stones!

EX-MEMBERS SURVEY RESULTS

Altogether, 9 ex-members have completed our on-line survey.

We asked why they'd not re-subscribed to LETS. I said they'd moved away from the area, I hadn't had enough time to participate, 2 said they couldn't find anyone to trade with, and 4 had forgotten to renew. We asked what people were hoping to get from LETS when they joined (you could choose multiple options). 6 people wanted to save money, 6 wanted to promote self-sufficiency, 4 wanted to meet like-minded people, 3 wanted to meet new people and 2 to make new friends.

Asked if LETS had met their expectations, 5 said it had not, and 3 said it had (I didn't reply).

We asked the people who had been disappointed by LETS to tell us why, and they were mainly disappointed by the types of services on offer, e.g. they wanted household jobs, plumbing services, or just more people in their area. I said they'd not been asked for the services they offered.

Most people had attended trading events, which is normally a good way to make contacts.

Asked what would have helped them trade more, 6 people said more or different goods and services on offer, and 5 said more people asking for the goods or services they offered.

So, what should we do to retain more members? As has been said elsewhere in this newsletter, a more imaginative approach to the goods and services you offer, and a more pro-active approach to looking at other members requests and offers might go a long way to keeping both new and long standing members more involved. More trading makes for a more healthy and wealthy LETS system.

Barbara (407)

Saturday March 20th between 3.00pm and 4.00pm at the Blue Moon café (venue to be confirmed). Bring and trade your unwanted jewellery items/fashion accessories.

Saturday 17th April 2-4pm plant sale at Rosie's (545). Light refreshments provided. Please bring plants, seeds or other items to trade. Please reply to Rosie (545) if you can come.

Saturday May 15th between 2.30pm and 4.30pm at Catherine's (431). Bring and trade general unwanted gifts etc.