

# Sheffield Local Exchange Trading System

## *Newsletter*

November 2017

Hello everyone and welcome to our autumn newsletter. A special welcome to our newest members. We look forward to trading with you soon.

### **Making LETS work for you**

Are you trading regularly or are you sitting on the system hoping that someone will get in touch? To be successful does require some effort to make contact with other members. But first, do make sure you've really taken full advantage of your listings on our website. You can edit your entry at any time, giving a full description of what you offer, including what you plan to charge in stones (or stones/cash) and you can also upload photos of yourself and the things you trade. These will only be accessible to other members of Sheffield LETS. Then have a look at what other people are listing on their offers and requests and if you'd like to trade with someone, drop them an email or phone them up.

Next, do remember that trading gets easier once you've met a few people face to face. So do come along to one of our trading events. Future trades can also be arranged. Members of the Co-ordinating Team will be happy to help you get started if you're unsure, so do get in touch.

You can also earn stones by helping the Co-ordinating Team to run the system.

### **Community Sharing Event in Sheffield**

On 9th September 2017 Rosie (545) and Maggie (582) went to St Mary's Church, Bramall Lane, to take part in a community event. This was an excellent opportunity for us to promote Sheffield LETS. We gave out postcards, advertised our October trading event and met other people who are involved in community projects in the city.

In the afternoon we took part in World Cafe discussions. Our topic was "Trading Alternatives to Money". Every 20 minutes we were faced with a new group of people. Some of the questions asked were tough to answer, for example: Is Sheffield LETS relevant in this technological age? Why do we have so few members? Why do we charge to join?

There were several other groups there. *Goodgym* is a running group which also takes on local projects and pairs up members with lonely people. *Timebuilders* provides opportunities for refugees, asylum seekers and local residents to collect time credits. A *Repair Cafe* is held at Heeley City Farm every two months where you can bring items for repair and learn skills to enable you carry out your own repairs. *Sheffield Common Thread* organises Clothing Swaps.

### **Are you on Facebook? Check out our Facebook page!**

Since Sheffield LETS relaunched in April we have introduced a new and improved Sheffield LETS Facebook page. This is a public space which we are using to publicise the system in general to increase awareness and membership and to advertise trading events. We would like individual members to Like the page and share it with your friends. Also as an option members could post items about their experiences. Remember it is probably safer to anonymise your comments.

Maggie receives weekly updates on the number of views and likes and recently reported that we had around 40 followers.

### **Trading and social events**

We are aiming to hold events about once a month, usually at the Blue Moon cafe in town on a Saturday afternoon. The cafe is next to the cathedral and is wheelchair accessible. You can sample a range of refreshments, bring small items to trade and meet other LETS members. The cafe has wifi, so if you bring your phone, tablet or laptop, you can input your trades there and then, and members of the Co-ordinating Team will be on hand to help if you're not yet familiar with using our web-based system. New members especially welcome. Do encourage your friends to come along too!

Since the last newsletter we've had two Blue Moon events, on June 17<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>. Each was attended by at least 5 current members and others who'd seen our event advertised in the local paper or on Facebook. We've had 2 new members join at these events. Items traded included books and cards, and we had some good conversations with the people who were interested. The October event was followed by a brief co-ordinating team meeting. Minutes will be available soon.

Our Open Forum event was held on July 15<sup>th</sup> at St Mary's Community Hall in Walkley. It was attended by 6 of us. With one or two minor amendments, we agreed to adopt the proposed constitution as drawn up for us by Mary from LETSlink. In line with the constitution, subsequent Open Forum meetings will be known as Annual General Meetings.

The meeting was followed by trading.

### **Upcoming Events**

Our next event will be a trading/social event on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> 3pm-4pm at Rosie's house. If you are a member, please contact Rosie (545) if you'd like to come and she'll let you know the address. If you are not yet a member, please contact the admin team via the website.

We may have a pre-Christmas December event too. If so, we'll email (or phone) you with the details.

**Next Newsletter: Spring 2017**

**Deadline for inclusions: Friday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2018**

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