



Sheffield Local Exchange Trading System

[www.sheffieldlets.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldlets.org.uk)

**March  
2018**

# NEWSLETTER

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Dear LETS members,

*Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018. We hope that you had a good Christmas and new year.*

*Welcome to anyone who has joined us since our November issue. We look forward to meeting you at one of our next events and to trading with you in due course.*

## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Stricter Data Protection laws are coming into force on May 25<sup>th</sup> this year. This means that we need your express permission to continue holding information about you, such as your contact details and offers/requests and to continue being able to contact you. If you have managed to log into your LETS account and use the system, then you should be able to access and edit any information we hold about you, so you are in control of what you are happy to be on the system. Other LETS members are able to access your email address and telephone number; only the admin team have access to your postal address. We do not pass your details on to other people or organisations. If you don't have internet access and are relying on the Co-ordinating Team to manage your account, we will let you know by post what information we currently hold about you and you will be able to update this by post.

We will be contacting you all again in the next couple of months with a consent form, which we will need you to fill in and return to ensure that you are able to continue using Sheffield LETS. So please watch this space!

Catherine (0431)

## **Co-ordinating Team – new blood needed!**

The current members of the Co-ordinating team have been running Sheffield LETS for a long time, in some cases for over 20 years! In order to grow and flourish, we really need new faces on our team. This doesn't have to be an arduous task – you could perhaps take on a small, contained role, such as updating the Facebook page, or making contact with new members or members in your area. We also welcome articles for the newsletter – perhaps about a recent positive trading experience, for example. Co-ordinating Team members are formally elected at our AGM/Open Forum, but there's no need to wait until our next one in July if you'd like to be a part of things sooner – we can co-opt people at any time.

## **Financial Donations welcome**

Just over a year ago we decided to experiment with not asking for a regular annual subscription from existing members, although we do still ask for a small payment when people join for the first time. It doesn't cost so much to run the system now, but costs include the website hosting, occasional room hire, stalls at publicity events, and printing of publicity materials. So if at any stage you'd like to make a small financial contribution of say, £5.00 to £10.00, please do! As an incentive, we will

credit your account with an equivalent in Stones!

### **Are you making the most of your profile?**

Our website allows you plenty of space to say something about you and describe your offers and requests in far more detail than our old system ever did. You can even upload photos of yourself and the things you offer on LETS. And you can edit and update your entry whenever you like. Why not take a look at the profiles of other members to get an idea of what's possible! The Co-ordinating Team can help you if you're not quite sure how to do this.

Catherine (0431)

### **Events**

We organise various events so that members can meet up and organise trades. They can be useful to show members how to use the website to record trades.

In December we had a pre Christmas social at Amici and Bici on Abbeydale Road which was attended by 5 of us, and gave us the opportunity to explain LETS to the staff, who were keen to find out what each of us offered on the system. In January around 6 of us met at the Blue Moon café near the cathedral to trade unwanted Christmas gifts and books.

### **Next Event: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

3.00pm-4.30pm at the Blue Moon café (next to the cathedral). Bring small items to trade and cash for a cuppa and cake. The café has wifi and disabled access. *Let us know by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March if you plan to come so we can book a suitable table.*

Details of further future events will be posted on the website under News and events plus members will be emailed.

If you would like to host an event do get in touch. It doesn't have to be anything complicated – you could simply offer refreshments and trading at your home, or

suggest a venue, such as a local café, and then book a table a few days before your proposed date, when you know how many people plan to come. You could give your event a theme if you like – in the past we've done books, clothes, gardening, unwanted gifts. But that's optional! If interested, do contact us on [info@sheffieldlets.org.uk](mailto:info@sheffieldlets.org.uk).

Maggie (0582) and Catherine (0431)

Next Newsletter: May 2018

Deadline for articles etc – Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup>