



NEWSLETTER

July/August 2020

www.bristollets.org.uk

Dear Members

Welcome to a long-awaited newsletter. Our last social was held over a year ago - on Sunday 24th March 2019 from 5-7pm, at the Thali Restaurant in the Tobacco Factory, North St, Southville, BS3 1TF – if anyone who was there took photos, please do send them! We are now in catchup mode after a long period in lock-down and are keen to connect with members to find out how you are surviving, and how best to become active again so that members can continue helping each other. Mary at LETSlink has suggested using zoom: we will send the link to members by email and look forward to seeing lots of members, if not in person, at least on our screens.



Our most recent LETS stall was at the BS3 Repair Cafe way back on Saturday 23rd February 2019, from 1.30 pm to 4.30pm, in the United Reformed Church Hall, off West St /Stanley St South, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 3PG. It's run by volunteers who will see if they can repair anything that you bring along, free of charge. And they sell tea and snacks too. Pictures show our stall, above, and people hard at work doing repairs for the repair cafe, below.



Our latest update is that, in preparation, we had a Core Group meeting by zoom to rehearse how we might run an AGM and invite all of our members.

The above is an actual screen-shot of the meeting which we held on Friday 24th July 2020, showing top-left, Karaline Godden, long-serving coordinator of Bristol LETS, who mostly acts as an adviser now that her MS condition makes physical or computer work very difficult. Top right is Secretary of LETSlink UK, Mary Fee, who had convened the meeting, having heard on another zoom meeting that our scheme had become inactive.....

Several of the Core Group had indeed resigned, leaving Hilary Allen (bottom left) covering all the Core Group tasks herself – with some support from a member who had helped by contacting members. Bottom right is Cordelia Osborne, also a long-standing Core Group member, who had been inactive due to illness, but is now on the mend and is supporting our effort to help Bristol LETS on its own road to recovery. The date and timing of our next AGM will be sent by email, so look out for our next message. Meanwhile please access and update your profile – continue overleaf for further details...

Since our Core Group zoom meeting we have been working out why trading activities within Bristol LETS have slowed down, and how we can improve on this. Our discussions have brought into focus that not everyone who joined from the various groups around Bristol (about then years ago) transitioned easily to becoming members of a single city-wide group, and that even some members of the Core Group experienced difficulty using the Local Exchange online system. If we had been able to organise more training it might have helped.

LETSlink have done some analysis of our members' database, and have discovered that the joining procedure was so cumbersome, with the address-verification, then having to pay the joining fee – which in real terms cost more to collect than the value in sterling – so that too many of those who applied to join have failed to get through this process. They have suggested that would be more efficient to phone or meet up with members, and to separate fund-raising from the joining process, and that rather than making a joining fee compulsory, we could invite donations, and that instead of the standard starter gift of Ideals, we could give them for donations. This raises the question of the exchange value of Ideals, which will need a formal discussion with members to resolve, because a standard rate of 5 Ideals per hour is currently written into our Constitution. Meanwhile, when we recently reinstated the accounts of all those where there was no clear reason for their accounts having been inactivated, we instantly doubled our membership!

Another issue has been not having enough members in the Core Group to cover all the support work needed, so as well as organising ourselves better at the centre we will be asking members who can, to help by contacting others – this can be for technical support or helping other members to make connections. We have linked to the membership list on the website a neighbourhood grid, so that you can easily find who lives near you – and we can also discuss with members whether it would help to organise socials in local areas. We are looking forward to discussing with you - at our forthcoming all-member zoom meeting - these ideas and how members feel we can best help each other in the present circumstances.

But first of all we are asking all members to access your own profile on the website www.bristol.letslink.org and (a) add some updating text to the About Me box to generally describe how you are, (b) to upload a photo which really lightens it up, and (c) look at your Offers and Wants and begin to update them – this will be an ongoing process. We realise that many members will have forgotten their password – or never even received it – but the good news is that if you know your four-digit ID, you can ask the system to send you a new password – find your ID in the next column. Here is the direct link: www.bristol.letslink.org/members/password_reset.php

MEMBERS' NAMES and ACCOUNT NUMBERS

• Abigail(1069) • Alan*(0332) • AlexWhitton(1031) • Alex Wilson(0302) • AlisonG(1080) • AlisonP(1029) • Amanda B(0321) • AmandaW(1110) • Amber(1161) • Amy(1064) • Ana(1091) • Andrew(0668) • Andy(1062) • Ange(1125) • Angela(0323) • Angie(1148) • Anita&Thomas (0231) • AnnC(0976) • AnnM(0966) • Anna&Phil*(0248) • AnneB (1103) • AnneF(1158) • Annette(1001) • Barbara(0939) • BarryC(1008) • BarryR(1053) • BeverlyC(0167) • Beverly D(1136) • Beverly N(1082) • Bradon(1155) • Brenda(0282) • Bryony(1102) • Burcu(1147) • Carmen(1093) • CarolineB (1140) • CarolineLS(1162) • Caryl(1097) • Cassandra*(0227) • Cathy(1105) • Catriona (1022) • CeliaB(0330) • CeliaMcC (1074) • Charlie(1138) • Charlotte(0337) • Chloe(1075) • ChrisB(0064) • ChrisS(0536) • ChristopherT(0978) • Christy(1059) • Claire(1045) • Conan (0275) • Cordelia(0207) • Corin (0980) • Danny(0334) • David (1095) • Deb(0311) • Dee(0971) • Dennis(0318) • Derrick (1134) • Devi(0143) • Diane(0326) • Dianna*(0977) • Dianne(0306) • Dorothy(0050) • Eileen(1132) • Eira(1111) • Elizabeth(0290) • EllaD(0297) • Ella P(1050) • Emily(0250) • Felicity(1154) • Fiona(1073) • Frances(1088) • Francesca (1054) • Francois(1143) • Frank(1038) • Gabbie(1092) • Gareth(1139) • Georgina(1135) • Graham(0324) • Hannah (0981) • HelenE(1028) • HelenS (0269) • HelenT(1109) • HilaryA(0317) • HilaryF(0881) • Ian(0936) • IngridS(0251) • Jackie(0691) • Jacqueline(1055) • James(0970) • Jan(1034) • Jane(0435) • Janice(0307) • Jean(1137) • JenniP(1131) • Jennifer(1142) • JerryV(0759) • Jesse(1021) • Jon(1101) • Jonathan(1076) • Jools(0329) • Joyce*(0973) • Jude(1122) • Julia(1058) • Karaline (0010) • KarenD (1115) • KarenL (1124) • Karine(0336) • Kate (1043) • Kath*G (0303) • Kathryn J(0331) • KathyB(1133) • Katja (1104) • Kay(1049) • Ken (0316) • Kerry(0322) • Kim(1100) • Kitty(0189) • Krysia(0242) • Lara(1024) • Lau*(1037) • Laura(0272) • Leyla(0268) • Lia(1033) • LindaB(0020) • LindaP(1130) • Ling(1163) • LisaB(1126) • LisaR(1149) • LouiseA(1026) • LouiseV(1112) • Lucy(1018) • Lydia(1128) • Lynne(0310) • Maddie(0974) • Mandy(1000) • Margaret (0924) • Maria(1156) • Marie(1123) • Marilyn*(0319) • Marion*(0940) • MarkC(1119) • MarkS (0534) • MartP(1047) • Martina*S(0308) • Mary*H(0197) • MaryS (1042) • MaryT(1099) • Melanie(1003) • MichaelB (1094) • MichaelL (1071) • Michaela(1068) • Michele(1129) • Mike(0295) • Miriam(1057) • Monika(0964) • Nancy(0312) • Naomi(1145) • Nellie(1114) • Nick(0299) • Nigel(0261) • Oliver(1157) • Pamela(0094) • PatH(0340) • PatM(0789) • PatMcG(1077) • PaulP(1084) • PaulaC(1036) • PaulaJ(1051) • Pauline(0178) • PeteS(1072) • PeterH(1144) • Phillip&Jacqui (0313) • Pippa (1035) • Pixie(1120) • Polly*H(1151) • PollyW(1117) • Rachel(1127) • Radha(0339) • Renata(1108) • Reza(1150) • RichardA(1044) • RichardH-D(1121) • RitaC(1020) • RitaG (1116) • Robert(1146) • Roger(0136) • Ros(0146) • RuthG (0040) • RuthL(1113) • RuthP(1048) • Samantha(0265) • Sami(0325) • Sara(1141) • Sarah G(1078) • SarahT(0982) • Sarah-Jayne(1085) • Sharon(1081) • Sheila (1061) • Shirley(0195) • Shona(0328) • Sidika(0961) • Simon (1118) • SophiaR(0139) • Sophie L(1153) • SophieR (0237) • Stella(0301) • Stephen(1086) • SteveF(0033) • Steve H (0466) • SueF(0278) • SueY(0267) • SusanP(0219) • Suzanne (0979) • Tabitha(1152) • TamizanS(0003) • Tamsyn&Ji(1041) • Terry(0279) • Trevor(1070) • Vanessa (0314) • Veronica (0004) • WendyB(0202) • WendyT(1159) • Yana (1040)