

LETS article for Ealing Neighbours: to go in the January 2011 issue

LETS Do It.

A Local Exchange and Trading Scheme is a way for people and organizations to exchange their time and skills with each other using a local currency. LETS, unlike banks and other powerful institutions, aims to be totally transparent – members can see each other's transactions and balances. The scheme has support from Ealing Volunteer Centre and LetsLink London – part of a UK network.

How Does It Work?

Members list services or resources they wish to offer and their current needs, which are circulated via the LETS website.

Inspiration lists and personal advice is available.

Members contact each other directly, arrange a 'trade' amongst themselves and agree a price in Eals which are transferred online or by writing out a transaction form. A LETS 'buddy' will help members without computer access or who have a disability or other difficulties using the system.

Neighbourhood social events are hosted by members to help people get to know each other, build trust and discover new opportunities for trading.

An Example of Trading

Recently I traded with a member who drove me and several items to Greenford dump. I gave her a couple of pounds to cover petrol and paid ten Eals for the service. Another member needed help putting up a curtain rail for which she paid me 10 Eals. I was back in balance.

How to Get Involved

The more members in the scheme, the greater the chance of offers being available to meet needs. The website has full details - hopefully we will be advertising a list of introductory socials soon - and a joining form, which contains the information we need to set up your account. So to join or find out more go to:

www.ealing.letslink.org/members

Email: ealing@letslink.org

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