



HempLETS
the Local
Exchange
Trading
System for
Hemel
Hempstead
and
surrounding
areas
including
Berkhamsted,
Tring and the
Langleys.

HempLETS Information

It is a community based, non-profit group whose members trade goods & services without using cash.

HempLETS follows the well practised principles of Local Exchange and Trading Systems (LETS) which is based on the theory that everybody has something to offer.

Here are loads of great reasons to read this leaflet

- * Encourages community spirit
- * Trade your surplus produce
- * Back to barter basics
- * Regular monthly meetings
- * Excellent facilities
- * FREE Trading tables
- * Monthly Newsletter
- * Services Directory
- * Calendar of Events
- * Run by and for local residents
- * Good way to meet new people and build links within the local community
- * Everybody welcome
- * Trading gives you confidence
- * Creates goodwill
- * Promotes self-esteem

HempLETS is one of the most successful LETS groups in the UK

Ever wondered how or where to swap your surplus fruit & vegetables; not for money but for a haircut? If so, please come along for a cup of tea or coffee and an informal browse at the wide range of goods and services on offer from others who have already joined HempLETS.

HempLETS holds a regular monthly meeting, called Talk & Trade (T&T) so that members can meet and make contacts. This is held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Many members attend these informal table-top sales because a T&T is a wonderful opportunity to sell your items and also spend your Hemps thus creating wealth for yourself and other members.

As a paid up member of HempLETS you receive a monthly newsheet containing information about the group and what's planned for the next few months. You'll also get lists of other members and their memberships account numbers together with their contact details, and a directory - a 'Yellow Pages' of skills and items currently offered by all our members.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What exactly is a Hemp credit and what is it worth? HempLETS does not have any physical tokens of barter. A Hemp has a notional value. Credits and debits exist only as figures recorded in the HempLETS Members' Accounts. Hemps are created with every trade and every trade promotes goodwill. Trust is built by trading with other members.

A guideline to the value of 1 Hemp is about £1.00.

How do I trade? Once you decide to join, you become an important part of the framework of this and every other LETS group. Attending a Talk & Trade is the best, but not the only, way to create trade opportunities as you meet other members and discover what they have to offer.

Within HempLETS all transactions between members are paid for using our alternative currency: Hemps. You are given 12 Hemps when you join but you can earn more by trading with other people whenever it suits you. No interest is charged and there is no fixed repayment schedule.

If I have no LETS credits can I still trade? For the system to work, a number of accounts may have to be in debit. This is known as being in commitment as you are committing to the system.

If your account goes into commitment, you have a moral obligation to 'give something back' to the group by trading out of your Hemps deficit should you decide to leave.

Am I supposed to find an equal swap? On joining, every new member is issued an account number. This enables them to earn from one member and spend with another member at a later date.

Members can purchase goods and services which they might not be able to afford should they have to pay cash. Direct exchanges are not necessary as you spend and earn credits from every trade and it is these credits, i.e. Hemps - which you can spend with other members at your leisure.

How do I price my goods and how will I know what to charge for a service? Compare similar services in the HempLETS directory. You can base your fees on an average hourly rate or leave them open for negotiation.

You are entitled to charge more for a difficult job or a high quality of service. You can also charge part Hemps and part sterling, especially if you need to recover cash spent on materials. Only the Hemps portion of the trade is recorded on your account.

I don't feel I have anything to offer. There are many professional people in HempLETS who offer specialist services such as Reflexology, Dressmaking or Garden Design. These are listed in the Services Directory and are just a few of the many services some of the members are happy to trade for Hemps.

Whether skilled or not, HempLETS helps people realise that everyone has something to offer. Time, energy or resources of any new member will be of value to someone.

Some members sell surplus herbs grown on their well tended allotments, home-made jams, cakes and fudge. Even hiring out tools can earn Hemps as we all have things in our homes that someone might wish to borrow.

If you are still unsure about what you can offer, please ask for the HempLETS Inspiration List if you haven't already been given it. This is a list of services and skills which have been offered by HempLETS members in the past will help you to think of jobs or skills you have or items you could offer for Hemps.

Can someone run up a huge debt and then leave? Within HempLETS all members are equal and this allows for built-in safeguards. All balances and turnovers are published regularly so that members can view other member's accounts.

Anyone who finds it difficult to earn enough Hemps to balance their account can use the Inspiration List.

Will HempLETS affect tax or benefits? Most trading on LETS is well below taxable income thresholds. The 'social favour' level of trading is not of Interest to the Inland Revenue.

However, if you trade regularly in your normal occupation, that will be liable to tax in the normal way. Many people incorporate a proportion of sterling into their rates to cover this.

The Welfare benefit rules are more complex and more detailed advice is available from LETSLINK UK. Claimants should remain available for, or actively seek work.

What does it cost to join? The registration fee is £12. But in your first year we give you 12H to encourage you to trade from the day you join; thereafter you pay £12 and 24H annually. The good news is if you join HempLETS today you can trade straight away!

What can I look forward to if I join HempLETS? The HempLETS Auction where all the lots are sold for Hemps; Create & Craft evenings with card making and scrapbooking ideas; Mind, Body & Spirit evenings with 15 minute taster sessions and pamper products. Many more talks and demos are listed in our planned 'Calendar of Events'. In the past we've had a Wreaths and Garland display, Feng Shui, Healthy Eating, Diabetes Facts, 10 minute Tarot, a Summer Garden Party plus seasonal nature walks in Ashridge with a guide.

HempLETS is a non-profit group run by and for local residents. Come along on the 2nd Wednesday of any month and we will welcome you with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or 3. Let us show you how HempLETS works.

Offer household items, home-made goodies or your time and earn credits to spend on the things you need. Recycle egg cartons, jam jars, plant pots or bubble wrap. You may be able to earn Hemps with every trade.

There are regular talks and demonstrations at our Talk and Trades. Any member can give a talk or demonstration on a specific topic to promote their goods or services.

I like the idea - what should I do now? Ask for an enquiry pack. Subscription rates are kept as low as possible. It would be helpful if you complete the 'Offers & Wants' section on the back of the application form.

Take the active approach - join HempLETS today

WHERE AND WHEN TO FIND US

You're welcome to join us at a Talk & Trade meeting

Where: Gadebridge Community Centre, Galley Hill, HP1 3LG

When: 2nd Wednesday of every month

What time: 7pm to 9pm

For more information please visit www.hemplets.org

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