



Edinburgh LETS

Local Exchange Trading Scheme

www.edinburghlets.org.uk

NEWS

Update:
April 2025

Dear LETS members

This is a brief report from my visit to Edinburgh on 5th-7th April. It was a family visit by with my partner Adrian who was attending a meeting of Sempervivum - a therapeutic group who were founded at Laurieston Hall several decades ago when they ran residential holidays, and who have have continued to meet in other locations since Laurieston Hall stopped hosting meetings: www.sempervivum.org.uk

It was a wonderful coincidence that Lorna Dillon, also a member of CamLETS was offering accommodation at the flat she shares with her co-parent Markus in Bruntsfield which helped reduce our costs. We had a lovely weekend with Lorna and her family and were well cared-for.



Only two days before we were due to arrive I managed to send a message out from the online system to all members of Edinburgh LETS with the header "Update April 2025" and was very pleased to get a response from Rosanna Rabaeijs, who suggested meeting from 5pm on Saturday 5th April, at the SHRUB Co-operative's Zero Waste Hub, 22 Bread Street, EH3 9AF: www.shrubcoop.org.

Adrian and I duly turned up there and had a lovely meeting with Rosanna, a former committee member of Edinburgh LETS who volunteers with SHRUB and shared with us that in the past she had had the idea of Edinburgh LETS combining with the SHRUB project, but had not had the energy to pursue this. Another factor was that due to the loss of funding, SHRUB will be moving to another venue soon, but we should still be able to meet there for a while.

Nahid Aslam, another former Committee member who has long experience of helping to manage Edinburgh LETS had been unable to attend in person due to her work schedule, also joined us via WhatsApp.



In our conversation it emerged that it might be feasible for SHRUB simply to serve as a supportive meeting space, rather than merging with Edinburgh LETS, which could rotate the venue for socials in different neighbourhoods. Whilst we were staying at Lorna's place her partner Markulf, also shared that he was interested in the LETS project, and when he joined I saw that he is involved with another local project called BANZAI (Bruntsfield Area Net Zero Action Initiative) - which has aims compatible with LETS, and could potentially make contacts there: www.banzaiedinburgh.org.uk

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: While LETS groups are independent and interpret the advice given in the original LETSlink Info-Pack in their own ways, it became unfeasible to continue with the paper-based admin system described there, and when we were given the code for the online system designed by one of the former organisers of North London LETS (who had moved to the USA) we made this available to groups who were able to make use of it, including Edinburgh LETS.

It seems that the group has been dormant for some time. We lost contact with the member who had taken over its management on a solo basis for several years and had set up a new website called LETSedinburgh.

When we recently discovered that it had disappeared, we restored the original website: www.edinburghlets.org.uk. We've re-connected with members who have responded to messages from there, and on this basis there is a good prospect of revival, so we look forward to hearing your news and ideas. Best wishes to all

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