



# NEWSLETS



NewsLETS is BrisLETS' monthly roundup of events, achievements and plans  
The main stories in this newsletter are in the Newsfeed on the website: <https://brislets.com/news/>

August 2019

## A rather unusual Trading Day

Sunday July 21 was rather a peculiar Trading Day, and showed how much BrisLETS needs another Events Organiser now that Andrew Gaydon and Isabelle Derouet have stepped down.

A few people turned up to share lunch; these people decided to sit outside in the sun, rather than stay in the hall. Later, other people arrived in the hall to trade.

For some time, neither the group outside nor the group inside realised the others were present: a good example of right hands and left hands!

This miscommunication meant that Storytelling didn't happen.

Fortunately, both insiders and outsiders came together eventually. Several attendees participated in Anne Tennock's excellent and valuable presentation on accessing accommodation within our own BrisLETS membership and other CES groups. Others conducted brisk trading and networking.

### Skills Lab — Storytelling

This will carry over July's topic (*Never again!* suggested by Alison Bird)

## Will YOU show up?

*"Be the change you wish to see happen."*

*Some say that this is a quote from Mahatma Ghandi.*

*Do you have a vision or some useful ideas for making our BrisLETS organisation work better?*

*Then come along and show up at the AGM on Sunday 18 August.*

*Don't just leave it to Somebody Else.*

*They might not show up.*

*But YOU can!*

## In this issue

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Lunch on the grass at the Peace Hall, Albion



to the **August Trading Day on Sunday August 18.**

As the coordinator of our Storytelling and keen member of another storytelling group, I know that other people's anecdotes about their lives can be simply fascinating. So I invite you to attend and entertain us with your story. Feel free to read it; you needn't memorise it.

But, before you launch into your under-5-minute story, I would respectfully suggest that you be ready to brief us on the goods and services you offer, and any wants you may have, in 30 seconds. What was the topic? *Never again!*

### **August AGM and Trading Day**

Next Trading Day is also when BrisLETS holds its AGM to elect a new committee. This will be from 11 am at the Peace Hall, 102 MacDonald Street, Windsor. Note: trading starts AFTER the AGM and lunch.

Please bring some delicious food to share for a pot-luck lunch at 12 noon.

### **Changing venues for Trading Days**

The Peace Hall at Albion has many benefits, especially for BrisLETS members who live on the north side of the city. It also has a few drawbacks too, as anyone living south of the city will agree.

Because of this, outgoing Chair Simon Cole has established connections with the managers of several alternative venues, so that all BrisLETS members will take turns in having a meeting venue that's more convenient to where they live.

We hope that a future Trading Day will take place at the FoodConnect Shed, located at 1/8 Textile Crescent, Salisbury. It will be the usual shared pot-luck lunch at 12, followed by trading, a workshop and

In any organisation, it's easy to accept new initiatives that make things work better ... and then forget who did the work to bring them about.

BrisLETS' outgoing committee have left an impressive record of achievements. Read all about them on the next page.



### **Membership report for July 2019**

Two new members:

BLCE1398 Chris Mansergh of Russell Island offers transport and tours of the island, and odd jobs

BLCE1402 Lynette Loffel of Everton Hills offers editing and household goods

## What is BrisLETS' primary function?

The results of this single-question survey, launched in July, are as follows. Thanks to the eight people who responded. Of these, some suggested additional functions as well as a primary function. They are shown thus, [in square brackets].

1. Alternative currency: | | |
2. Cashless trade: |
3. Trading/shopping in itself: 0
4. Obtaining actual goods: |
5. [Supplementary income: |]
6. [Social network: |]
7. [Ethical considerations: |  
(doesn't lead to inequality)]

### Observations

Even with the small number of responses, their breadth is obvious and it surprised me.

Clearly, this micro-survey does not reveal a central theme; indeed no one perspective stands out. There is a mild preference for Alternative Currency and a slight, possibly understandable, absence of preference for the “shopaholic/shopping therapy” response, i.e. the trading/shopping response,

The incoming management team might like to take this diversity into consideration. To get this BrisLETS show on the road — and keep it travelling happily along this road — we need to recognise that LETS is many things to many people.

—Paul Wildman



## Outgoing BrisLETS Chair thanks collaborators

In my term as President, with significant support from many people, most notably Andrew Gaydon, I oversaw a number of initiatives intended to raise the number of goods and services available to BrisLETS members, and add value to their membership:

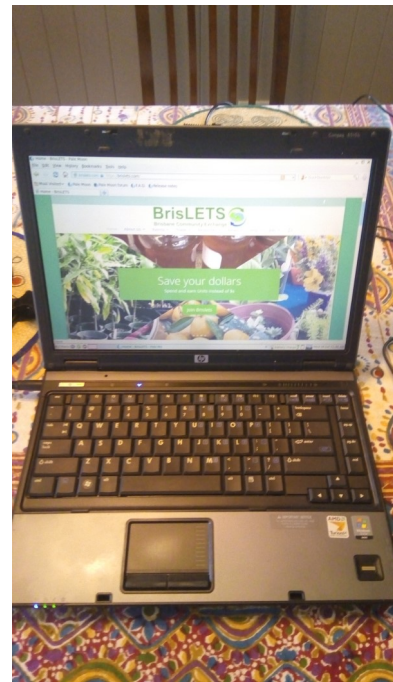
- Created an organisational structure to delegate tasks, which saw a significant increase in members participating in running BrisLETS
- Developed a Unit budget to reward Admin helpers, as requested by members at 2017 AGM
- Oversaw the CES Oz Website Blitz Team's overhaul of the [brislets.com](http://brislets.com) website thanks to Annette Loudon and Jean Werk, allowing newsletters to link to stories, dedicated email addresses, a calendar and a much more informative site
- Supplied more information to members via monthly (rather than quarterly) newsletters, thanks to Josephine Brown, and event updates via Mailchimp, thanks to Andrew Gaydon, which in turn gave feedback on the number of people who open and read them
- Oversaw change of logo, name and branding, thanks to Laurie Riddin, Helen Bird (non-member) and Jeni Lewington
- Initiated review of BrisLETS' constitution and terms and conditions, including a comparison of other exchanges' T&Cs, to better maintain the membership list and database

- Added a PayPal button for online payment of joining fee, thanks to John Tennock
- Developed a Drop-Off Point network, thanks to Bianca Baptista, Paul Wildman, Lillian Geddes and others
- Created a Members' Map to facilitate local networking
- Rearranged and clarified the Area Divisions with definitions and illustrative logo, thanks to Helen Bird
- Established a relationship with the Albion Peace Hall as a regular Trading Day venue to save event organisers' time; many meetings, workshops and demonstrations have been held here
- Gave a number of promotional presentations to like-minded groups such as Substation33 and Northey Street staff and volunteers, developing collaborative relationships with them
- Developed a collaborative relationship with FoodConnect in order to establish a regular southside Trading Day venue
- Established a firm relationship with Northey Street City Farm leading to an information stall at their Sunday Markets, thanks to Rob Vidovic
- Created a topic-specific library at the Albion Peace Hall
- Arranged supply of two laptops to Admin for use at events, thanks to Holger Averdick and Andrew Gaydon
- Initiated applications for grants for:
  - promotional material
  - event equipment
  - alterations to a shed at the Peace Hall for a shop, storage and Drop-Off Point
- Established a Think Tank for those interested in a deeper understanding of mutual credit, thanks to Paul Wildman.

Some of these — such as the rewards to members in a Unit Budget, the review of the constitution and T&Cs, the DoP network and relationships with the Peace Hall, Northey Street City Farm and FoodConnect — have not yet been fully implemented.

I hope these are taken up in the future, as I believe their effect will be very beneficial to the BrisLETS community.

—Simon Cole, Chair



**BrisLETS Admin's "new" laptop, arranged by Simon Cole and resurrected by computer-whisperer Holger Averdick**

**Y**our contribution on any helpful topic relating to our organisation is sought. Deadline for receiving your story is the **25th of each month**. Email: [josephinembis@gmail.com](mailto:josephinembis@gmail.com)

Here's my personal answer to Paul Wildman's survey:

**Just as you have your real job and your side-hustle, so too you can have your cash income and Units income to supplement it.**

**To me, BrisLETS' primary function is as a side income.**

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