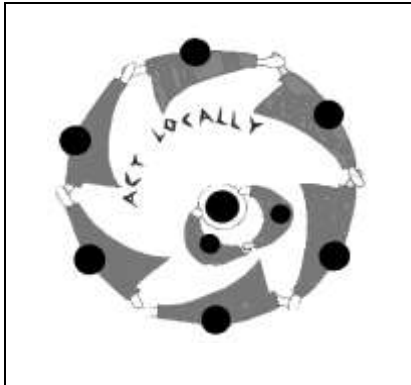




Issue 118

November 2014

CamLETTER

News and Views for Members of CamLETS

PO Box 483, Cambridge CB5 8WX
www.cam.letslink.org

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

December 13th, 11.30–2.30,
(Stall set up from 11.00)
Lichfield Hall, Lichfield Road
(off Cherry Hinton Road near
the Budgen's roundabout).
Parking available.

This is a busy annual event with
lots of stalls available for 10
cams (1/2 table 5 cams)

An ideal place to get presents,
crafts, cards, Christmas food
and preserves, decorations and
foliage. There will be a raffle,
hot food and drinks, and also
training available for our
website and computer access if
you are still unsure how to work
it.

We need YOU to book stalls to
provide things (and boost your
cams account !) or just come
and trade.

Please let Liz Roman know if
you want a stall (01223 870929,
lizroman@btinternet.com)

NEW YEAR PARTY....

Sat January 10th 2015. 6–9.30pm
St Andrews Church Hall,
Chesterton (corner of St

Andrews St and Church Street,
Chesterton)

This year we have made the
times earlier, hoping that
younger family members can
come too and have some fun
before bedtime. There will be
the usual mix of food, games,
music, circle dancing, and sitting
and enjoying some chat and
company. Please bring some
food to share.

We hope you can come to these
enjoyable annual events: bring
your friends to both –not a
member? no cams? –no problem!
All are welcome.

FEBRUARY TRADING

Host and location for Sunday
1st Feb Trading Event will be
announced in the weekly update.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

20th October 2014

Hello Camletters

Our next 2 events, which you
can read more about elsewhere
in this newsletter, are the
Christmas Trading on Saturday
13th and the Camlets New Years
party 6–9pm Sat January 10 at
St Andrews Hall in Chesterton.

For the Christmas Trading this year we are encouraging people to bring along friends who are not yet members. If they like the atmosphere, they will be able to join on the spot and start trading. For the New Year's party we are starting early hoping members will bring children to join in the activities. The AGM has been and gone and if you were not able to attend, you will find a short report here. In due course the complete report of the year's activities and the minutes of the AGM will be found in the Information section of the website.

Here is something to ponder upon. In the members agreement, point 4 states:

4. Members may give or receive credit from each other in the CamLETS unit of account, called 'cams'. Members are encouraged to adhere to a normal charge for services of 10 cams per hour. All services listed in the Directory are assumed to be available at 10 cams per hour unless otherwise stated. Sterling expenses may be recovered but no sterling- only services may be listed.

I have noticed recently that several members now offer services at more than 10cams per hour. I personally feel that the ethos of the system is that everybody's time be considered equal. However I am aware that not everybody agrees with this.

I would encourage discussion on this topic when you meet other members in the course of trading, either individually or at trading meetings so that we can reach some kind of consensus. When we trade stuff rather than time, things become more difficult; but perhaps the trades should be related in some way to "time" ie how long does it take to pick the fruit and make the pot of jam; or how long would you be prepared to work to have those vegetables. But remember that in any case Lets schemes should not have inflation. One hour remains one hour.

Lastly, your chair is going to be out of Cambridge from mid November to mid February. If people have any problems during this period, please address them to Lorna Dillon; she has kindly agreed to be the link person and will bring the matter up at core group meetings.

Judith Rattenbury
Chair

CORE GROUP MEETING

The next Core Group meeting will be on Tuesday 16th December, at Rosie Davies' house. NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION. All members are welcome to attend.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Nadia Cowlan, who is offering yoga lessons.

07837 888804 nadiaeleanor@gmail.com

AGM, 2014

The 2014 AGM met at Helen Gilbert's following trading on the 2nd of November. We heard reports from the core members, including the following points of interest: Twenty-two new members joined CamLETS this year, and the same number left, resulting in a current membership of 133. The nineteen who have not yet logged onto the website are encouraged to do so; please encourage new members (and old) to post and update wants and offers. CamLETS is being advertised on posters around the city, and on the web (Gumtree). We are looking for a new website person, or possibly two. Put simply, we need someone who can keep the website up to date, and someone who can fix it when it is broken.

Everyone in the core group was duly elected: Judith, Liz, Jo, Mary, and Jane re-elected having already served three years, and Rosie, Lorna, Ann-Marie and myself (Ed), having been co-opted since the last AGM.

PUMPKIN SOUP RECIPE (simple) Easily adapted to dairy free ,
vegan etc.

500 g Pumpkin flesh (chopped into smallish pieces)
750 ml water or stock
150 ml double cream
100 gm grated cheddar cheese (or any melting cheese such as fontina)

Simmer the pumpkin in the stock until soft and sieve or liquidise.
Reheat and add the cream, gradually adding more salt if necessary (the cheese will add more flavour)
Put the grated cheese into 4 bowls, pour on the soup and serve.

ADDITIONS TO JAZZ IT UP A LITTLE

An onion cut into smallish pieces and fried gently in olive oil (with or without chopped garlic) , before adding the pumpkin and stock .

A pinch of Chilli flakes or powder added to stock.

1 Teaspoon chopped sage leaves, sweet spices such as cinnamon, cloves (small pinch), cumin, all make it different each time.

GARNISH with chopped parsley/ sliced spring onions/blob of sour cream/yogurt, or croutons.

Equal amount of any of chopped tomatoes , peeled and chopped potatoes, sliced cleaned leeks, sliced celery can all be added at the beginning.

REMINDERS

Bring friends and interested members of the public along to any trading event. They can join CamLETS on the spot and begin trading (or you can buy things for them and settle with them as you like).

Do not be afraid to go into “debt” (within reason) with cams: the system doesn’t work until somebody buys something.

Please remember to take any unsold merchandise home with you from trading events(!).

MEMBERS WITH LARGE BALANCES

Everyone is reminded to offer to facilitate trading with members who have large balances, positive or negative, to spend or earn respectively. Account numbers with over 600 positive are: 0551, 0369, 0687, 0034, and 0141. Those with negative balances of more than 400 are: 0533, 0252, 0357, and 0416.

CORE GROUP MEMBERS

Chair – Judith Rattenbury
Membership/Post – Jane Howorth
Website Administrator – Mary Taylor
Treasurer – Rosie Davies
Trading Activator – Liz Roman
Newsletter – Edwin Hall
Mailing Co-ordinator – Jo Archer
Meeting Sec – Lorna Dillon
Outreach – Annemarie Hickford