



CamLETS Newsletter 176

September 2025

Warm Greetings from the Core Group for the start of Autumn and this Special pre-Annual General Meeting edition of the newsletter.

Read on for all you need to know about the CamLETS AGM coming up on **Saturday November 1st, 3-5pm at Hartington Grove Friend's Meeting House.**

See below for details of the venue and options for getting there and parking if needed.

Please save the date!

A detailed agenda will follow in October with a brief written report on their role from all who have been on the Core Group this year. But please do read on for news of exciting opportunities and changes....

CamLETS is now 32, a mature system that has shown great resilience despite difficult times (2nd oldest in the country!). The Core Group are keen to warmly welcome you to the 32nd AGM as there are some important decisions to be made with you, our members. The kettle will be on and there will be home made cake (including GF).

We have several topics for discussion coming up for this meeting and we'd love you to consider these points and share your views at the meeting:

- **The CamLETS Directory** is very much out of date with redundant offers and wants. It urgently needs a major review and edit. Please share your thoughts on how best to update it?

Do we set a date at which all offers and wants will be deleted and start over again?

Do we continue to encourage people to update their own (though this has had little effect in the past). Do members need support to update their own entries?

- **The Newsletter** is feeling much less relevant now than 30 years ago, when it was our only means of communication . No articles or photos have been submitted by members this year. Is it still relevant when so many forms of communication now exist that weren't available when CamLETS was founded?

What is the best form of communicating for CamLETS, taking the need to reach ALL members into account? If the consensus is for the newsletter to be discontinued, the Constitution will be updated to read 'the announcements' in all places where the newsletter is mentioned.

-**The role of CamLETS Events.**

In light of attendance at social events declining (about a dozen people at the summer party on 13th July) and not much trading taking place at trading meetings, it's time we reviewed the role and purpose of the traditional CamLETS gatherings, both trading meetings and more structured events like parties and the Christmas Fair. How important are social and trading events to you? Is a distinction between social and trading events helpful? What can be done to encourage more people to attend, and trade at, events?

-**The Role of Trading Activator** will be changing from this AGM, thanks to feedback and the experience of previous trading activators. The core purpose of CamLETS is an *exchange*, of a service or object, for Cams. The two new and entirely separate roles are: Exchange Coordinator and Membership Meetings Coordinator – see descriptions below.

Elections for all posts in CamLETS will take place in the second part of the meeting. These are open for nominations now, with a particular need to fill the roles of:

• **Newsletter Editor / Communications Support:**

We may not need a Newsletter editor following the discussion in the first part of the AGM, but will certainly need someone skilled and confident in communicating to people and able to use all the channels CamLETS currently uses: WhatsApp, Facebook, email.

• **Exchange Coordinator:**

Builds a knowledge of the membership regarding offers, wants, strengths and sensitivity. Works with the Membership Secretary to encourage and support new members. Takes trading data from the Webmaster to interpret the pattern of trading for the Core Group. Manages Weekly Updates online. Creates social events, usually in members homes

• **Membership Meetings Coordinator:**

Creates the calendar of CamLETS member's meetings for the year ahead Books venues (to agreed budget) for Market (trading) Days and organises catering. Promotes events through Weekly Updates and WhatsApp. Responsible for health and safety issues at events. Publishes a brief record of each event online, with photos. Do have a think about whether you'd like to stand for one of these newly defined roles? They come with the usual CamLETS honoraria and the essential requirement to attend six online Core Group meetings yearly.

• **Website Manager:**

Receives member queries via "Contact Us" link and admin address, forwarding as appropriate. Maintains contact with LETSlink support. Updates website for upcoming trading and core group events. Reviews member offers and wants for privacy issues - names and contact. information in titles and description, edit as appropriate. Answers some support questions from members and core group. Website: updates permissions, core group officer roles, manages docs access. Google services: updates permissions, core group officer roles, manages docs, access via Drive and Groups. Web host: Email forwarding for core group roles. Domain and web services: billing and maintenance for domain. Provide IT training to Core Group, prepares processes and guides for technical tasks and shares via email and website. Backs up website database. Exports list of active members for sending out weekly updates and newsletters. Keeping CamLETS aligned as well as possible with GDPR requirements.

Job descriptions for roles not already described above are on the website, here:

www.cam.letslink.org/members/pages.php?id=13. Do think about taking on one of these roles and joining the team. CamLETS only runs with the good energy of those prepared to support it. Cams are given as honoraria for each role undertaken and attendance at the Core Group (currently online for 90 minutes in the early evening six times per year) is an essential part of the role.

Here's the info on parking and transport for the Friends Meeting House

91-93 Hartington Grove Cambridge CBI 7UB (NOT the main FMH in Jesus Lane):

Buses along Hills Rd: (Blinco Grove) and Hills Rd 6th Form College stops are near Hartington Grove) Routes I X2 X3 7 I3 I3A I6A I7 X75 I32B U2

Buses along Cherry Hinton Rd (get off at Rock Road) 3 I6A T4

Car Parking: for up to I2 cars at the Meeting House, plus free parking on the local streets at weekends

Bike Parking in car park at the Meeting House

See you there! The Core Group