



The Bright Exchange
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Bright
NEWS
January 2017

Dear Member

You are invited to a training event and social which will be on;

Date: Sunday 12 February 2017

Time: 2.00 – 4.00 pm

**Venue: Bob Deschene's place,
111 St. Leonards Road, Hove BN3 4QQ**

How to get there; St Leonards Road is off New Church Road, Hove and near Boundary Road, Portslade.

Buses from Brighton - no 1 / 6 along New Church Road, or 46 / 49 to Portslade station.

Train: Portslade station 5 minutes walk

For enquiries about this event or getting there contact Deborah 01273 731329 or Maggie mobile 07951 828244

Venue contact for Bob on the day only – 01273 241178 / 07722 196307

Mary Fee of LETSlink, has kindly offered to attend our event on Sunday 12th February, to demonstrate the new online system, and provide one-to-one training in how to use it, so to get the best possible introduction, be there or be square!" It will be demonstrated on a large screen TV.

Our Coordinator, Deborah approached LETSlink UK several months ago with a request to upgrade the website. Mary Fee of LETSlink started working on it and this turned out to be a complex exercise but the issues are now sorted and it is up and running.

We have had to wait for about two years for this new website to be able to integrate the new set of logo designs for The Bright Exchange, created by our very own graphic designer Suzi Conway, and chosen by members at a AGM meeting in 2015. These are still being implemented on the website as I write this, but we, as a core group are delighted with the result. We hope this will inspire you to get back involved in The Bright Exchange.

Web link for logo history;

<http://www.brightexchange.org.uk/members/pages.php?id=21>

xx. see below for further background information on the website and software

New Roles in the Core Group

Would you like to participate in the Core group and help with the running of the Brights scheme? We want to expand and attract new members in Brighton and Hove and to do this we require some extra special people. There has been only four of us on the Core group for quite a long time and this is not sustainable in the longer term if we wish to grow. Training will be given.

There are various roles which you can volunteer for including;

Membership Assistant

helping to organise new member evenings to promote the scheme, dealing with applications and enquiries, setting up new member accounts, supporting and assisting new members to get online

Directory Editor

To edit the online directory, supporting members to update their profiles, offers and wants, ongoing support to members, printing of directories. This role requires some confidence in using the website.

General help

which could be admin, updating of website, phoning round members, assisting with organising events or socials etc

Social event organiser

Someone with positive energy who can create some fun social events to bring new and current members together to create a vibrant community and encourage trading.

If anyone has any other skills they think would be of benefit to the core group please contact us to discuss what you can offer.

For information on these roles look on the website under Inside Pages/Core group roles;

Web link core group roles -

<http://www.brightexchange.org.uk/members/pages.php?id=13>

With Best wishes from your Core Group,
Deborah, Pat, Suzi, Maggie (and Mary)

xx. Further information on our new website and software;

The software behind our website is called Local Exchange, which was coded by Calvin Priest in the US, based on a very good brief by Francis Ayley, co-founder of North London LETS, which means it does what LETS organisers need it to do. Further design work has been done by Chris McDonald, as directed by Rob Follett in the Cornwall, and by Progga from Bangladesh, working as an intern under the direction of Mary Fee in London, and this upgraded version, the result of international co-operation, has been used successfully by LETS groups all over the UK and some countries in Europe.

Essentially, the website has a database containing contact details, listings, transactions, and information page content, integrating all of this with the web design, creating an interactive system. This means that once an account has been created by an administrator, the member has access to develop and update their own profile (which includes just one photo!) create listings, and message other members through the system. Once they have traded, members can do invoices and/or transactions and give feedback. The system allows some information to be visible to visitors but also provides a safe space for members to interact with each other.