



Occupy Economics Working Group

Notes of Meeting on Friday 16th February 2018
at Friends House, 73-177 Euston Rd, Kings Cross, London NW1 2BJ



Present: Steve Burak, Mary Fee (notes), John Courtneidge, Richard Comaish, Janos Abel (briefly),
Apologies: Schlacke

Notes from 9th February 2018: - [OEWG-180209](#)

5pm-6pm: Steve and Mary, finding themselves alone, exchanged reminiscences about their respective careers and talked about how we could fill the space of being abandoned by inviting other people along. Mary is neglecting her own project, LETSlink, and could travel to other parts of London to meet up with members of Londonwide LETS. We are attending many meetings, some of which are excellent, but people go away, not having really connected with each other, and we talked about how with LETS groups, we encourage members to introduce themselves to each others in a go-round, so that potential ways of helping each other can emerge, which is the essence of LETS trading – in larger meetings people sometimes bring second-hand or craft items for sale. Mary feels that this project is in danger of disappearing unless she can find a way to promote it. Another factor we talked about is our ability to project ourselves, which is not very high. Here are some links to the LETS project: <http://www.letslink.org> • <http://www.londonwide.letslink.org>

6-7pm: John and Richard arrived, having travelled from Bromley. John is a regular and he had encouraged Richard to join him. We talked about the difference between meetings with a local focus and meetings discussing key ideas that needed to be propagated widely, which is how we view the Occupy Economics Working Group, and it needs to be in a central, accessible venue – or, could this also travel, and could the two formats be combined? John recalled how he had returned from Canada at the time that Occupy had taken off. He had been warned by his mum not to get involved, but inevitably he came across it when visiting St Paul's and he was welcomed in and invited to present his ideas. This is where he had met Ellena, now a stalwart of Global Table.

7-7.30pm: Janos arrived. He has always “held the fort” at the Occupy London Economics Working Group, but latterly seems to be mostly absent, perhaps due to getting seriously involved in another project, which he brought a leaflet about. The header is **Towards a People's Permanent Parliament (PPP or P3)** – with a note added that there's some debate whether to use this word, or “Assembly”. He had brought another leaflet with this alternative heading to the Global Table:

“Drop in a the Host Cafe: 7.30am-4.30pm St Mary Aldermary, City of London, Watling St, EC4M 9BW - People's Assembly Now Sitting.” This is a very special venue, as described in this article: <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/host-cafe-at-st-mary-aldermary-in-the-city/> - The general idea, Janos explained is that his group has set up a rota of two-hour slots, when one person in the group hosts the meeting, presumably starting with one table in the cafe, so visitors will always find someone there. Attendance at this venue may partly explain Janos arriving late, both at this meeting and Global Table, and hopefully more people will get involved in support of the project, which appears to be an outreach activity of the group Remaking London presented by Kyle at the Global Table: <http://globaltable.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/OpenResearchGroup-180131.pdf> - See the Wikipedia entry: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communalism_\(political_philosophy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communalism_(political_philosophy)). Meanwhile, we noted that using the name People's Assembly could cause confusion with another group with this name, <http://www.thepeoplesassembly.org.uk/local-groups> - and it was not clear from Janos's description whether they are connected or not – but it's interesting so watch this space. MF/mf/180217
<http://occupylondon.org.uk> • <http://www.themap.org.uk> • <http://www.co-operativesocialism.org>