

PETER NORTH



In 1992, disillusioned by what the election of the Conservatives to a fourth term in the UK might have meant for his prospects for an enjoyable yet productive career as a civil servant Peter decided to follow what had long been a dream: to study for a Master's degree in Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. On that programme, in a throwaway sentence during a lecture on the 'peaceful economy', reference was made to alternative forms of currency. Essentially, members of a group would decide that they would create and then trade with their own form of currency, one that they mutually agreed to accept from each other. That was a reference to something that would change the course of his career - not that he knew that at the time.

He moved to Bristol to do a PhD on Local Exchange Trading Systems (LETS), which involved fieldwork in Manchester. He then went to the early conferences of LETS, and was able to visit Liz Shephard and Harry Turner at LETSLink UK up the road in Warminster. He joined the board of LETSLink UK and got stuck into LETS in Bristol, then Brighton and Southwark.

Peter was able to go and study LETS and other currencies first hand in the US, Canada, Hungary and Ireland. He spent the best part of a year in New Zealand, and made two trips to Argentina in 2002-3. In 2007, he helped set up Transition South Liverpool. He also went on a research trip to Great Barrington, Massachusetts to look at Berkshares.

Peter North teaches Geography at Liverpool University. He lives in Liverpool with Bev, Polly and Gabriel.

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