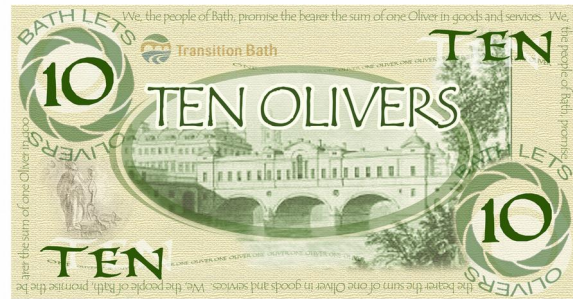
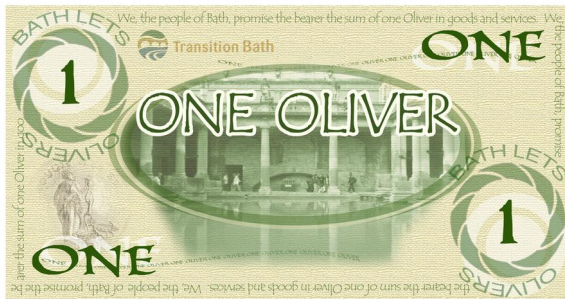


## A Local Look at ‘Olivers’



What's this then? you say. Okay, have you heard of the Lewes Pound, or the Brixton or Totnes Pound? No? Yes? Whichever it is, the residents of Larkhall and surrounds may be interested to hear about this brand new incentive which is run by BathLETS and supported by Transition Bath. It's called the Oliver. Not to be confused with the Bath Oliver biscuit, invented here in our city by William Oliver, founder of the Bath General Hospital, physician and entrepreneur, in the 1700's.

The Oliver is alternative currency, not convertible into cash, which was launched on 21st March 2011. The way it works is simple, yet complex. It is a trading mechanism. Originally BathLETS had a membership system whereby members would be in a directory with a list of services they could offer to other members, in exchange for Olivers. Anyone could trade services or goods for Olivers, with any other member.

Now, BathLETS has decided to make all of this available to everyone else by creating physical Olivers which anyone can use with anyone else for any (legal) reason. The question is, how to get all this money going around the town, as only members and businesses have them at this point. A couple of businesses in Larkhall may be interested

in taking part and it would benefit the locals to have this facility. Members of the public can also receive the currency as change or accept it in return for doing a favour or supplying something, such as wood, or apples from a garden tree or even baking a cake for a garden fete. Everything works. It benefits everyone by keeping trade busy here in Bath. It benefits the customer and the business, as the customer will specifically go to the place where he can get a percentage off of the price by paying with Olivers. So the businesses take a little less money but get more customers. And the customer gets the goods or services for less.

Larkhall is something of a village on its own. With a supermarket, pharmacy, take-aways, hardware, a charity shop and greengrocers, and more, it could maybe exist on its own without being attached to Bath. It makes it the perfect place for a barter system and the currency would virtually stay in the village. So if you are ever offered some Olivers, take 'em and use 'em! You can join the membership system and be in the directory in order to access all the goods and services on offer from other members. Come on Larkhall, get to it!

More info: [www.bathlets.org.uk](http://www.bathlets.org.uk)  
National website: [www.letslinkuk.net](http://www.letslinkuk.net)