



# LETSlink GATHERING

## Exploring the Deep State

### Sun 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017



**LETSlink London**, and **London-wide LETS**, in association with the Open Research Group, welcome you to a gathering to welcome new members, and to encourage existing members to connect face-to-face. The aim of Londonwide LETS is to facilitate mutual support via “links”. London has several independent LETS groups, but all can connect up via Londonwide LETS: <http://www.londonwide.letslink.org>. See also: <http://www.letslinklondon.org.uk>

To encourage members to attend, we are hosting an event with visiting speakers. Our theme for this meeting is “Understanding the Deep State, and to explore this, we have invited Robin Upton, Peter Presland, and Robert Stuart – see details opposite.

After the presentations and Q&A, we will use “OpenSpace” which enables participants to host small groups to discuss issues arising from the presentations and/or other topics they might wish to bring to the meeting, and to report back at a final session. We also hope to encourage performers, if time allows. Please feel free to bring any leaflets or items you wish to display, and food to share – there is a kitchen where we can prepare food and drinks.

*We aim to be flexible, but in case people can attend only part of the day, here is a suggested schedule:*

1pm: Lunch and Networking, 1.30pm Introductions  
2pm: Presentations, 3pm Q&A,  
4pm: Tea Break, 4.30pm OpenSpace Bids,  
6pm: OpenSpace Discussion Groups  
7pm: Feedback from Groups, Conclusion.  
8pm: Supper and Networking, with Performances

Our venue for this session is the Highgate Library Hall, Croftdown Road, London NW5 1HB, a short walk from Archway tube, and Highgate Road – it is also on the C11 bus route – see [map](#).

Attendance by donation (to meet room hire costs) (suggested amount £10/£5). To contact us go to: <http://www.londonwide.letslink.org/members/contact.php>

#### **Robin Upton**

was born in the UK but after his PhD in Artificial Intelligence 20 years ago he moved to Bangladesh. In 2012, researching his dissident radio show (<http://www.UnwelcomeGuests.net>) he discovered Wikispooks, where he has been an editor of the Deep State Encyclopedia since 2012. As well as deep politics, his interests include altruism, the gift economy, languages and permaculture.



**Peter Presland** is a UK businessman who started Wikispooks after retiring. <http://www.wikispooks.org>. He is also an administrator on DeepPoliticsForum.

**Robert Stuart** has been writing and speaking about the 2013 BBC Panorama documentary “**Saving Syria’s Children**” – and will present an update on what may be the worst instance of fake news in broadcasting history – he writes:



“In 2014, BBC *Trust Me, I’m a Doctor* presenter Dr Saleyha Ahsan introduced a *Newsnight* report on HOSPEX, a military training exercise in which “actors and make-up artists mimic even the most severe of injuries”. A year earlier Dr Ahsan had appeared in the harrowing BBC Panorama special, *Saving Syria’s Children*, purporting to treat teenage victims of an incendiary attack on a school playground. The footage was first broadcast on the BBC *News at Ten* as MPs voted on whether to bomb Damascus in August 2013. Blogger Robert Stuart has gathered a wealth of evidence suggesting that the Panorama scenes were fabricated. Robert’s research has been endorsed by award-winning former *Guardian* journalist Jonathan Cook and prominent online magazine *Paste*. Panorama has been pressured into issuing a public statement and plans are afoot for a crowdfunded feature documentary exposé by leading film, television and radio producer Victor Lewis-Smith.”

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wtt4LbWl84> – and <https://bbcpanoramasingyriaschildren.wordpress.com/2017/07/09/bbc-panorama-team-embedded-with-islamic-state-partner-group/>