



The Living Wage

GreenZone Cleaning & Support Services are recognised Service Providers of the Living Wage which is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually.

GreenZone are committed to ensuring their staff earn a wage they can really live on, not just the government minimum.

The Living Wage is calculated according to the basic cost of living in the UK. Employers choose to pay the Living Wage on a voluntary basis.

The Living Wage enjoys cross party support. The London Living Wage was reviewed in November 2018 and is currently £10.55 per hour and covers all boroughs in Greater London.

The UK Living Wage for outside of London is currently £9.00 per hour. These figures are set annually by the Resolution Foundation.

GreenZone encourages all their clients to follow them and also commit to paying the Living Wage.

You can find out more at www.livingwage.org.uk



Blockchain, Cryptocurrencies and their Future

By Julian Jackson

Cryptocurrencies came into the world in 2009 with the rollout of bitcoin. The mysterious creator "Satoshi Nakamoto", who seems to have disappeared, solved the practical problems of a digital currency, which had been attempted in other forms which did not succeed. The technical aspects are not the focus of this article. Roll forward to 2017, and a plethora of new currencies and blockchain-enabled projects took off. Although this year has been turbulent, many startups have made significant progress.

What is a blockchain?

In non-technical terms, it is the underlying backbone of the technology: a ledger (like Excel) which is distributed over many computers, or "nodes" which does away with the need to have a trusted third party, like a bank or insurance broker, or any kind of middleman, to facilitate a deal between two parties who do not know each other.

What is a dAPP or decentralised application "a smart contract"

The next innovation came in with the second cryptocurrency to be invented, ethereum. It can have actual computer programs triggered from within the blockchain, so let's imagine a kind of blockchain-based eBay-type bidding site.



You want to buy (or sell) a laptop, when you win the bid, the computer is delivered, and when you sign for it, payment in cryptocurrency is automatically sent from a wallet of cryptocurrencies you hold. There are many applications for this new protocol, but cryptocurrencies are at a very young stage – really like the days of squeaky dial-up modems in the early years of the internet.

What practical application can any of this have to business?

Actually, this is potentially vast. Almost any goods or service industry may well have some or all of its functions automated, particularly if combining with other technologies like AI, 3D printing, and robotics. One area where cryptocurrencies are starting to make an impact is in foreign exchange

transactions because the costs are minimal and transmission very quick. This is such an advantage over the ageing bank system that it is already having an effect.

There are many other potential new opportunities including ID verification and voting, tracking goods, healthcare and records, land registry and many others.

Overall, blockchain and its offshoots will become as much a part of our lives as the internet, smartphones, and home grocery deliveries have become. We are not there yet, and may not be for a few years, but I sense that time is coming.

Wandsworth Chamber will be holding an event devoted to explaining the possibilities of blockchain, cryptocurrencies and associated technologies early in the New Year. Watch out for further announcements in the Chamber's email.

Julian Jackson is Wandsworth Chamber's blogger, his portfolio is here: <https://julianj.journoportfolio.com>

Russell-Cooke in Africa



Putney headquartered law firm Russell-Cooke has recently provided a mixed rugby team at a primary school in northern Zimbabwe with a set of branded rugby shirts. This unusual turn of events has come about through the firm's relationship with Barnes RFC Chairman Mike "Rhino" Whitfield and his involvement with a charity called TAG Rugby Trust. The charity aims to "use the power and simplicity of team sport to engage with and educate individuals" worldwide. Russell-Cooke has sponsored Barnes RFC since 2014.

Opening of the new Le Bistro du Telegraph

We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Wandsworth Council, Councillor Piers McCausland, the Chief Executive of The Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce Steve Pinto and 60 members of the Business Network for the formal opening of Le Bistro at The Telegraph in October.

The Mayor, who came with the Deputy Mayor Councillor Jane Cooper and numerous fellow councillors, opened Le Bistro and gave an inspiring speech to mark the occasion.

An evening of good food and networking in an amazing venue was enjoyed by all.

