***Press Release***

***Life Amidst/After Debt (LAD) announce the opening of their new offices in The Maple Centre, Huntingdon***

***18 March 2013***

*Life Amidst/After Debt (LAD), a St. Neots based charity, are thrilled to announce the opening of their new offices in The Maple Centre, Huntingdon, from the start of April 2013. The offices will be their primary base of operations and will be open to the public for drop-in debt advice without the need for appointments. Office opening hours will be on a Monday and Wednesday, between 10am and 4pm, and Friday from 1pm until 4pm. The offices will be manned at all times by trained debt advisor and will on occasion have representation from voluntary support counsellers and debt management companies. All LAD services are provided free of charge.*

*Founded in 2009, Life Amidst/After Debt (LAD) offer emotional support, independent advice, and guidance, to anyone in financial difficulty, whatever the severity. Their services are free, and their aim is to provide the support and encouragement needed to empower people to resolve their financial issues and prevent reoccurances in the future. Should more specialist advice be deemed necessary, LAD will signpost a client to the most appropriate service. To date, LAD have delivered their services via home visits and drop-in clinics on a Wednesday night at Paines Mill in St. Neots. These clinics will continue.*

*Ann Fryer, the founder and Chairman of LAD, has this to say:*

*‘We are really excited to finally have a permanent venue in which we can see clients and get them on the road to recovery. For the past three years we’ve been reliant on the generosity of organisations such as Paines Mill in St. Neots, and the Methodist Church in Eynesbury, that have lent us their space in which to provide our services. Now however, not only do we have a regular place to see clients for three days a week, we also have a consolidated base of operations which will mean we can work much more effectively and efficiently, thereby freeing up some capacity, which means we can see more people.*

*Debt is something that can happen to us all. In these harsh economic times the percentage of the population seeking help because they have fallen behind financially has risen dramatically. We also know however, that there are people out there in real trouble who are not yet seeking the help they really need.*

*Times are just going to get tougher. Not only because of the changes to benefits, ESA review, and the so called bedroom tax, but also because of the increase in fuel costs, transport costs, and the day to day costs of living.*

*In a recent meeting organised by Huntindon District Council between various community support organisations, it was estimated that 1000 housing association tenants in Huntingdonshire alone, would be negatively affected by the social housing size restrictions coming into force from April 2013.*

*We want to be able to help these people should they need it, and urge them to get in touch with us sooner rather than later. Now with our drop-in office, we hope they’ll do just that.’*

*Life Amidst/After Debt (LAD) can be contacted on 0750 4382919 or emailed at lifeamidst.afterdebt@gmail.com.*

***For more information, or to schedule an interview with Ann Fryer, please call 0750 438 2919***