

NEWSLETTER

May 2012

Hastings & Rother Credit Union Ltd

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A Savings and Loans Mutual Society



This is the last Newsletter you will receive by post.

Following the recent increase in the cost of postage, we cannot afford to pay for printing and posting to over 1,000 members. You will be able to find future Newsletters on our website at <http://www.hrcu.org.uk/News.html>

We would also like to communicate with you about developments in your credit union and any new services or offers we think might interest you. Email us at info@hrcu.org.uk and we will add your details to our database. We will not disclose your email address or disclose any sensitive or personal information to anybody else unless we are sure of the origin of the email enquiry. You will continue to receive by post your annual statement and notification of the AGM.

AGM 26th March

At the AGM, members agreed to a number of changes to the rules that govern the Credit Union. Some of these will have a direct impact on members so we are circulating this extra Newsletter to keep all members informed of these changes. They are to increase our income to make up for the loss of grant funding so we can move closer to being self-financing and increase the range of services and offers we can provide.

Annual Membership Fee

With effect from 1st October 2012 an annual membership fee of £3 will be deducted from each account. At the same time the joining fee will be reduced from £5 to £3.

We are aware that this will not be welcomed by some members who paid a one-off joining fee but a majority agreed that this was essential to increase our income. If you haven't got £3 in your account, you will receive a letter asking you to top up your account and, if this doesn't happen within a stated period, your account will unfortunately be closed.

Lottery

We have agreed to start a members-only monthly lottery. We urge you to take part to help the Credit Union become self-financing. All members are invited to take part by completing the form overleaf.

Tickets will be £1 each per month and any member can buy up to 10 tickets for each monthly draw. You will be allocated a number for each ticket. You will be committing yourself to the same number of tickets for 12 months.

The cost will be taken directly from your share account each month and any winnings will be paid into your account.

The draw will take place every month and winners notified. A full list of winners will be posted on our website after each draw. The lottery will be managed by a committee comprising Peter Hooper, Richard Street and Dee Daly none of whom may purchase tickets. The lottery committee will determine how many prizes will be awarded and the value of each prize. The complete rules can be found on our website.

Main Supporters: East Sussex County Council, Magdalen & Lasher Charity, Sussex Community Foundation, Orbit South Housing Association, AmicusHorizon, St Vincent's Family Housing Association and Hastings Trust.

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. FSA Ref. No. 213644

Are my savings safe?

Your savings are safe with the credit union as we are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. See website for details.



A Summer Loan?

Summer's nearly here so it's time to start thinking about holidays and perhaps doing a bit of decorating.

Why not take out a Credit Union loan to help you towards these expenses? Contact the office and we will get back to you. Full details and forms are on our website.

Corporate Membership

Following a recent change in legislation, we can now accept corporate members.

Any legally constituted body either based in Hastings Borough or Rother District or whose activities benefit residents of Hastings and/or Rother can now join and open an account with the Credit Union with the ability to take out a loan after saving for the required period. This could apply to residents' associations, community groups, parent & toddler groups and any others that want to see their funds both safe and available for use in the community. We will not however be offering membership to limited companies as we do not believe "business lending" meets our criteria.



is a new web-based company that offers household items for

sale at greatly reduced prices and encourages people to join a credit union instead of using a loan shark. <http://www.smarterbuys.org.uk>

Junior Members

Junior members now become full members of the credit union on their 18th birthday. This entitles them to take out loans, vote at AGMs and join the Board of Directors. Previously, at the age of 16, junior members became adult members in name only with none of the rights of an adult member.

INFORMATION POINTS

AmicusHorizon

45-51 Chiltern Drive, Broomgrove
Mondays 10-11am

Community Information Centre

16 Silchester Road
Tuesdays 11am to 12 noon

Tile Kiln Community Café

Tilebarn Road
First Wednesday 10am to 11am

Hollington Youth & Community Centre

1 Wishing Tree Road North
Thursdays + Fridays 8pm to 9pm

Hastings Trust

35 Robertson Street,
Fridays 10am to 12 noon

Website

Our website now includes full information about all our services including all the forms you may require which can be downloaded. You can print them off, complete them and return in the usual way or by email if you have access to a scanner. Please take a look at www.hrcu.org.uk.

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Members' Lottery

I (print name) membership number wish to purchase tickets each month at £1 per ticket for the above lottery starting from the(month) draw and continuing until I give notice in writing (email will be accepted). I agree to abide by the rules as published.

Signed Date