

NEWSLETTER

October 2012

Hastings & Rother Credit Union Ltd
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A Savings and Loans Mutual Society

Will you be affected by Universal Credit

The Government is bringing this in to replace some of the different benefits currently available with a single payment. It is being phased in from October next year. If you are in receipt of any sort of benefit, this could affect the amount you will receive. It will be paid monthly in arrears so it will certainly affect your household cash flow. Do you need to start saving that bit extra now to help manage the change? Remember that a regular savings record could mean that we can help you cope with the change with a loan.



Annual Statement

Your annual statement is included with this Newsletter as usual. If you have any queries about it, don't hesitate to contact us by phone or email.

Support from Hastings Council

At its meeting on 25th July, Hastings Council voted unanimously to support credit unions, cap lending rates and oppose payday loan companies.



The motion agreed to "the promotion of credit unions

throughout the country as community-based organisations offering access to affordable credit and promoting saving.' Several councillors applauded our work but we have not yet heard what this will actually mean in real terms. You can hear the debate via our website News page.

Lottery Winner

In the May Newsletter we told you about our members' lottery. The first draw took place on 12th October: Stephanie Heng won £20 and Maud McCluskey £10. If you haven't already done so, we urge you to take part to help the Credit Union become self-financing.

Tickets are £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 takes place every month and winners are notified. A full list of winners will be posted on our website after each draw. The complete rules can be found on our website.

Corporate Members

Following the change in credit union rules earlier this year, community groups and organisations can now become members. Two have joined already. Do you know, or are you involved with, any local groups or organisations that might join the credit union and keep their money within the community?

Pre-Paid Debit Card

Watch out in the New Year for our "prepaid debit card". This new service will enable you to draw cash from your savings or loan account at cash machines or you can use it to pay for purchases directly with the retailer in store or online. You will only be able to withdraw up to an agreed amount so that your account cannot go into the red.



A Christmas Loan?

Now summer's over it's time to start thinking about Christmas. How will you pay for it this year? Why not take out a Credit Union loan to help you? Contact us and we will get back to you. Full details and forms are on our website www.hrcu.org.uk. To be sure of getting the money in time, we need to receive forms by 30th November.

We have signed up 138 new members so far this year

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

This year we have processed more than £1 million on behalf of members

Great Deals online



Last time we told you about Smarter Buys which offers household items for sale at greatly reduced prices and encourages people to join a credit union instead of using a loan shark. Why not look at www.coopelectricalshop.co.uk where you can also get great deals as a credit union member.



Rye

We are looking to extend our activities in the Rye area with support from the Rye Partnership and AmicusHorizon. We will be making presentations to explain what we do to both organisations in the next few weeks.



If you live in or near Rye we would welcome your help so please contact us if you have some spare time. Look out for adverts locally showing exactly where and when to find us.

Grants Received

A number of organisations have recognised the value of the credit union to the local community by giving us grants to help pay for our work: Magdalen & Lasher, Foreshore Trust, Sussex Community Foundation and St Vincent's Family Housing Association.

Annual Membership Fee

As we informed you in the last Newsletter, an annual membership fee of £3 a year came into force this month. The first £3 deduction will be made from all accounts shortly. The joining fee is also £3. If you have less than £3 in your account, we will contact you.

High Sherriff of East Sussex



Last month we received a visit from High Sherriff of East Sussex, David Allan and representatives of the Sussex Community Foundation and the Natiional Council for Voluntary Organisations.. They were all very impressed with the work we are doing.

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

Hastings & Rother Credit Union Ltd

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