



ACE Credit Union Services

ACE Credit Union Services MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER December 2018

Scottish Parliament Launches “People not Profit” Campaign

The ‘People, Not Profit’ credit unions campaign was launched by Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, today as results of a new survey reveal that one in five (20%) people in Scotland have not heard of a credit union.

The launch was held at the Capital Credit Union in Stockbridge during *Talk Money Scotland Week* (12th -18th November).

Currently, around 400,000 people across Scotland are part of a credit union; approximately 7% of the population. The campaign seeks to support the growth of the sector by raising awareness of credit unions and the services they offer to a wider and more diverse audience.

A recent survey revealed that one in five (20%) people in Scotland had not heard of credit unions, and only two fifths (39%) questioned thought they would be eligible to be a member of a credit union. The survey also found that one in four people (28%) wrongly believe that credit unions make profits for shareholders, just like banks.

The campaign will highlight that credit unions are not-for-profit organisations providing loans and savings, and that most people living in Scotland would be eligible to join at least one credit union based on where they work or where they live.

A new website www.creditunions.scot has been launched to help people find out which credit union they could be a member of.

Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, said: “In



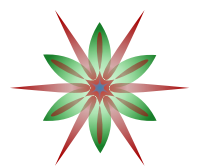
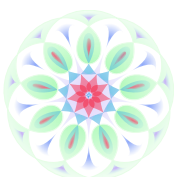
Aileen Campbell, SMP, with Capital Credit Union CEO Marlene Shiels

helping build a fairer Scotland, we want to protect people from getting into unmanageable debt and falling into the hands of predatory, high cost lenders. A key part of this is making sure that people are aware of the financial services and fair alternatives available, including credit union membership.

“Our new campaign will highlight the benefits of joining a credit union and I would encourage everyone to visit the new website to find out more.”

Michael Sheen, actor and social activist, has also worked with the Scottish Government to produce a short video explaining what a credit union is. He added: “I’m very pleased to be backing the People, Not Profit campaign, and I share the Scottish Government’s ambition to grow and raise awareness of this sector.”

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from everyone at
ACE Credit Union Services



Next trade bodies' meeting meeting with Credit Union regulators scheduled for 10th January 2019

The next Trade Bodies meeting with the PRA and FCA has been confirmed for Thursday 10th January 2019, at the new FCA offices in Stratford, London. The agenda items for this bi-annual meeting are listed below. If you have any comments on these items or you would like ACE to add any topics to the agenda then please let me know as soon as possible on bill.hudson@acecus.org



**BANK OF ENGLAND
PRUDENTIAL REGULATION
AUTHORITY**



**FINANCIAL
CONDUCT
AUTHORITY**

1. Capital requirements
 2. Operational risk
 3. Governance arrangements and board responsibilities
 4. Data piece
 5. AOB, including arrangements for trade body annual events
- Feedback following FCA Portfolio Letters
 - Update on Automated Push Payment (APP) Fraud and new complaints reporting requirements
 - Cyber Security (Case examples/discussion)
 - AOB

Budget Boost for Credit Unions

Hidden in the Budget document this year was what could be a small win for savers.

While there were no grand giveaways for hard-pressed savers in this year's speech from Philip Hammond, it did commit to a new prize-linked saving scheme for credit unions.

The scheme is designed to encourage more people to join credit unions which are often ignored, believed to be old fashioned or only for those on lower incomes.

According to Bank of England figures earlier this year, the number of credit union members is growing, hitting the two million mark for the first time at the end of the summer.

The scheme will be piloted to help entice more people to sign up as 'credit unions play an important role in facilitating savings and offering affordable borrowing to their members', according to the Budget papers.

It aims to encourage more people to save and boost awareness of the not-for-profit organisations at the same time.

While there was little information on the details of the pilot, prize-linked savings typically offer several

cash prizes to those enrolled each month alongside interest.

With interest rates low, this type of savings account is likely to be more appealing.

Better known prize-linked savings already on offer include premium bonds and Halifax's saver's prize draw.



Unify Credit Union wins 3 Edward Filene Awards



Unify Credit Union Staff and Directors collecting Edward Filene Awards

Unify Credit Union has won three awards at the 'Oscars' of the credit union world.

The eighth *Edward Filene Credit Union Awards* for Excellence were held in Manchester City Centre and the Unify team walked away with three accolades including a 'Special Award for Excellence in Film Production' for their school development project and a special Halloween-themed Credit Union Awareness Week, as well as an award for 'Hosting Saving Schemes for Primary and Secondary School Pupils' and another for the 'Use of the Media'.

Angela Fishwick, Chief executive of Unify Credit Union, said: "As a team, we work really hard to support people living in Wigan borough, so we are

delighted to have won these awards for our work, which has helped us increase awareness of how a credit union is a better way to borrow and save. I would like to thank all of the Unify team for their continued dedication and also thank our partner PR company *Yellow Jigsaw* for their media skills that have helped raised our profile."

The awards dinner celebrated those who have successfully participated in the *Filene* and *Biden Awards* programme by showcasing their efforts and achievements. They also give an opportunity for those involved in the co-operative credit union movement to meet others from this country and other parts of the world.

ACE Treasurer attends special Christmas Lunch with Jeremy Corbyn MP and Richard Leonard, MSP in Edinburgh



ACE Treasurer, Nancy MacGillivray, was invited to attend the Scottish Labour Party hosted special Christmas lunch for the local heroes, community members and organisations who are supporting each other against austerity in Scotland. Nancy said:

"This was a great opportunity to talk to Mr Leonard and Mr Corbyn about the excellent work being undertaken by credit unions in Scotland. Both had an excellent knowledge about credit unions and the need to support the growth and development of credit unions in Scotland and the rest of the UK".

Nancy MacGillivray with Jeremy Corbyn, MP and Leader of the British Labour Party

Moneywise Credit Union chosen to run Teesside Community Bank



Councillor Sue Jeffrey, Leader of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, and Middlesbrough's Elected Mayor Dave Budd

A community bank for people in Teesside has taken a major step forward after appointing an operator. North-east based Moneywise Credit Union will offer current accounts, online banking and loans to people in Middlesbrough and in Redcar and Cleveland.

The Community Bank will operate in a similar way to high street banks but will also offer its services to those in financial hardship who might sometimes be turned away from a traditional bank. The Community Bank will open at two locations, one in Middlesbrough and one in Redcar & Cleveland. The precise location of the sites has yet to be revealed.

Symon Agnew, Moneywise CEO, said: "Moneywise Credit Union are delighted to have been chosen to work with Middlesbrough Council and Redcar and

Cleveland in delivering a sustainable credit union in each area delivering real alternatives to high cost lenders and offer alternatives to those people who cannot access high street banks and are financially excluded as well as everybody else who wishes to save and borrow.

"We are open to all members of the community and as we are owned by our members we are an ethical source of lending for people needing to borrow money; our affordable loans and our services can be accessed through our website www.moneywise.org.uk around the clock."

The Community Bank has been set up after receiving £465,000 in funding from the SSI Task Force, along with a further £50,000 from Middlesbrough Council. Middlesbrough mayor Dave Budd promised to launch a community bank as part of his 2025 Vision, which aims to create a "fairer, safer, stronger Middlesbrough".

Mr Budd, a former bank manager, said: "The absolutely key thing about the Community Bank is that it must look, feel and operate like any other high street bank – Moneywise will offer us that and we are delighted to have them on board. The Community Bank will be open to all and allow anyone to achieve financial stability through saving and borrowing without falling prey to high-interest 'payday lenders' and loan sharks.

"It won't solve every financial problem overnight but it will offer real help to those who find themselves financially excluded, often through little to no fault of their own."

Barclays Credit Union Masterclass a big success BARCLAYS

Around 25 credit unions attended this event which had informative sessions on Managing Control and Risk Frameworks, Governance, Building A Social Media Strategy, Developing Products and Propositions and Measuring Social Impact. This two day event was a mixture of presentations and workshops that were well attended and constructive. A number of ACE credit unions attended the Masterclass including Citysave Credit Union, Grampian Credit Union, Moneywise Credit Union, Unify Credit Union and West Lothian Credit Union. Key findings of research undertaken the Financial Inclusion Centre in London showed that over the past two years showed that 79% of credit union members questioned had used their savings account with 24% stating that they had used a current account facility. Of the 70% of respondents that had applied for a credit union loan 59% had been accepted and 11% had been turned down. Amongst existing members there was an

overwhelming approval for the services offered by credit unions with 88% of respondents saying that the services provided were either good or very good.



Delegates at the recent Barclays Masterclass Event in Canary Wharf

The Right Honourable Denzil Davies



David John Denzil Davies, politician, born 9th October 1938, died 10th October 2018

The former Treasury minister Denzil Davies and President of Saveeasy Credit Union in Llanelli, has died aged 80. Denzil was a brilliant but mercurial politician for whom the promise of a glittering Westminster career was thwarted by the unfortunate combination of Labour's long years in opposition after 1979 and his somewhat volatile character.

Sheila O'Connor, CEO at Saveeasy Credit Union in Llanelli said:

"During a particularly sad year after the loss of Jeff Hopkins earlier in 2018, it was with great regret that the Members, Board and Staff of Saveeasy Credit Union learnt of the death of their President, the Rt.

Hon. Denzil Davies, who passed away unexpectedly in October."

Denzil was a familiar face to many within Llanelli and the surrounding areas having served as their MP for many years. In the wider Credit Union world, he was perhaps best known for being the MP who led the Credit Union Act 1979, through Parliament in the late 1970s, a cause he felt strongly about and one which he continued to champion after his time in Westminster."

Denzil firmly believed that, with the right help, most individuals could learn to manage their money and so move to a better way of living. His input and unwavering support for the Credit Union ethos will make an impact for many years to come.

The son of a colliery blacksmith from Carmarthenshire, Denzil left the valleys of south-west Wales for Pembroke College, Oxford, where his outstanding intellect was confirmed by a first-class honours degree in law.

On the backbenches Denzil won a reputation for being very much his own man and, despite his lifelong commitment to his party, he often made clear his lack of respect for either Neil Kinnock or Tony Blair as leader. In doing so, however, he thus guaranteed his place as a backbencher during the Blair government. He stood down as an MP in 2005.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Denzil's family and friends during this time.

Islwyn Credit Union celebrating 20 years serving its community



Islwyn Credit Union's team of volunteers

Islwyn Credit Union, based in Wesley Road car park, Blackwood, began offering affordable and practical financial services two decades ago and in

that time has lent more than £2.8 million through 3,700 loans.

Started by Judith Morgans and Marie Walsh from an office on Blackwood's High Street, the organisation, which is mainly run by volunteers, now has 814 members.

As well as providing affordable loans, the credit union helps people look after their money better by offering practical advice and saving facilities.

Blackwood councillor Nigel Dix, who is a volunteer director, said: "The credit union is there for everyone. Our purpose is to ensure that people can access affordable loans and encourage saving.

"Our work is made possible by our dedicated staff and volunteers whose support and work enables the credit union to flourish and meet the needs of our members.

"As a Director of Islwyn Credit Union, I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, our members and our board of directors for their support and dedication, which has been vital to our success. Credit Unions play a vital and growing role in our communities."