

Great Successes In Credit Union School Quiz

Well done to the boys from Abbey Grammar School who represented Newry Credit Union at the National Final of the Credit Union School Quiz in Dublin. Competition was fierce on the day with over 100 teams competing and the boys did themselves, their school, their parents and of course Newry Credit Union proud. Congratulations also to the team from St. Malachy's Primary School who won the Newry heat of the competition and were narrowly defeated in the Chapter Final. Thanks to all those local schools who participated in the various stages of the quiz. See you again next year!

Annual Art and Craft Awards



Newry Credit Union's annual Art and Craft Awards were held on 16th June in Rathore School, Newry. The Awards are a very special event in the Credit Union calendar and every year we are so impressed by the efforts of the pupils at both Rathore and Abbey Educational Centre for Physical Disabilities.

At our Awards ceremony all the children were presented with a medal and gift in recognition of their achievement. Afterwards a magician and disco kept pupils, parents and teachers entertained until home time!



Poster Competition 'Draws' Big Response



The Irish League of Credit Union's poster competition always proves to be popular with our local schools and this year was no exception. A big thank you is due to the hundreds of children who entered. Dorothy Blair, a local artist and teacher who judged the entries for Newry Credit Union said that she had found it particularly difficult to select just three winners from each category.

We were especially delighted that one of our winners, Aislinn McMahon went on to be successful in the Chapter Stage of the competition. Many thanks to our local schools for their support in running the competition. Well done to our winners and of course to all those who entered!



Walking on sunshine...

'Well Members, its true, when the sun shines we all feel better, brighter and nicer people! I hope I'm not tempting fate weather wise, but come rain or shine, I'd like to use our newsletter to introduce some of the great services Newry Credit Union has to brighten your summer!'

You'll see from the articles featured in 'Credit Union Matters' that whether it's a loan for your holidays, foreign currency, a Credit Union Paypoint card or the payment of Government benefits into your Credit Union account, you can be sure that Newry Credit Union is here to help all year round!

Brendan Jackson
General Manager
Newry Credit Union Limited

Euros, Dollars & More!

So your holiday is booked, but did you realise that you can purchase your foreign currency and traveller's cheques through Newry Credit Union? Euros and dollars are available on immediate request and all other currencies can be arranged with 48 hours notice. This service is only available to Members of Newry Credit Union Limited. If you want more information on rates or ordering currency then please contact us on our Foreign Currency directline:

T: 028 302 55118.

We've Just Made Saving Easier Than Ever!

We're always looking for new ways to improve on the service we give to our Members. With that in mind we've now made it possible to both save and pay into your Newry Credit Union account with a Paypoint Card.

Many of us already use Paypoint to pay a range of household bills. A Credit Union Paypoint card will enable our Members to pay money into

their Credit Union account at any one of the 400 shops and garages across Northern Ireland that operate the Paypoint facility. As an added bonus you can also pay other bills whilst in Newry Credit Union.

If you think you would benefit from the convenience of a Newry Credit Union Paypoint card then contact us on:

T: 028 3026 3840.



Did you Know?

Newry Credit Union now offers a Phone-a-Loan service. Ring us on 028 3025 5119 to make your application. If it's approved you can sign for it when you come in to collect your money.

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INTERVIEW WITH NEWRY CREDIT UNION'S PRESIDENT, CIARAN RAFFERTY



Ciaran Rafferty, President of Newry Credit Union Limited took some time out from his busy schedule to give us an insight into how he became involved with the Credit Union.

When did you become a Member of Newry Credit Union?

I've been a Member for over 15 years now. All my family and friends were Members and it had such a good reputation locally I didn't want to miss out!

With so many Store Cards and Credit Cards available, do you think that Credit Unions are still relevant?

Yes more than ever. Credit Unions offer a personal service that you won't get anywhere else. We're always expanding our range of services and we stay in touch with our Members and their needs. One of the most recent initiatives that we have launched is our Money Management Programme. We have introduced this because so many of our Members are coming to us with Credit and Store Card debts they can't cope with. They are turning to Newry Credit Union for help because they know we won't try to capitalize on their problems.

Being on the Board of Newry Credit Union is a Voluntary Position - why did you decide to get involved?

I was invited to become involved by an existing member of the Board of Directors. He was aware of voluntary work I was doing with other organisations. I'm now in my third (and final!) year as President.

I think I would like to become involved - how would I go about it?

We run an annual programme for Members who think they would be interested in volunteering. In the programme we cover all the functions and Committees of the Credit Union so that people know what they're getting involved in. Ultimately though any Member can stand for election at the AGM - Credit Union's are democratic organisations and the final decision on who is elected onto the Board of Directors rests with our Members.

NEW PROCEDURES FOR NEW MEMBERS

Since February anyone wanting to join Newry Credit Union does so by attending a New Member's Meeting. New Members must be accompanied to the meeting by either their proposer or seconder. While accounts are being opened and passbooks prepared, Orla Lynch, our Education, Training and Marketing Officer gives a short presentation outlining some of the key benefits and services that Newry Credit Union offers.

Interested in Joining?

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Member of Newry Credit Union they can register to be invited to a New Member's Meeting by calling into the office or by contacting us on

T: 028 3026 3840.

NEWRY CREDIT UNION NOW ACCEPTING BENEFITS

Newry Credit Union is now able to accept a range of Social Security Benefits directly into our Members' accounts.

The benefits are paid into a sub-account (yellow passbook). This allows the Member to have instant access to them in the same way as if they were paid into the Post Office or a bank. If you are interested in arranging for a benefit to be paid into your Credit Union account, contact us on

T: 028 3026 3840.

NEWRY CREDIT UNION IS YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR LOANS!

We're your first choice for loans and for a very good reason! Not only do we offer good value for money, we also provide a range of benefits to our Members that you wouldn't receive if borrowing from anywhere else.

Free Life Insurance and No Fees

Did you realise that if you borrow from us you receive free life insurance on your loan?* Other financial organisations add the cost of insurance onto your loan. They also add on arrangement fees - we don't. In Newry Credit Union we don't charge you for setting up your loan, for repaying it early or for any of the many other transactions you can make with us.

Reducing Loan Balance

Most financial organisations calculate the interest you pay at the start of your loan. This means that even when you've paid most of your loan off, the interest you're paying stays the same. That's not the way we do it. Newry Credit Union calculates interest on the reducing balance of your loan - this means that even though on paper our APR may seem higher, in most cases you'll pay less back to us over the period of your loan.

Use our Online Loan Calculator at www.newrycu.com or speak to one of our Loans Officers (028 3026 3840) to check how our repayments compare to others.

Interest Rebate

Nowhere else gives you a rebate on the interest you've paid off your loan, but we do - every year! In 2005 Members voted that 21% of the interest they had paid on loans was refunded to them. This money is available to our Members after our AGM in early December - just in time for Christmas. Now that's good timing!

*subject to qualifying conditions



HELP US TO HELP YOU!

You may have noticed in the local papers that Newry Credit Union has recently launched a free and confidential Money Management service. If you are a Member of this Credit Union and you have debts that you are struggling to cope with, this service may be of great benefit to you.

You can obtain more information on how the service works by contacting Rita Copas, Money Management Counsellor on 028 3025 5116 or at rita@newrycu.com



Rita Copas:
Money Management Counsellor

Did you Know?

Since Newry Credit Union was established in 1963 over £202 million has been lent to the people of Newry. Where would we all be without our Credit Union?