

Credit Union Matters

Newsletter November 2005

Welcome!

Edition 1

to our first edition of 'Credit Union Matters', Newry Credit Union's new quarterly newsletter.

Newry Credit Union continues to go from strength to strength and in the same way as our town has grown into a city, the membership of our Credit Union is rising year on year.

The size of our organisation and the increasingly busy lives we all lead means that we don't always get the opportunity to stop and chat the way we once had. This is something we want to address.

'In the hands of people who care.'

The Credit Union is a local organisation, run by people from this community, for the benefit of the community. This distinguishes us from other financial organisations and we don't want our Members to feel that in their dealings with us they are involved with just another faceless organisation - the Credit Union is much more than that. Its hoped that 'Credit Union Matters' will give us the chance to tell you about some of the most significant things that are happening in our Credit Union.

Most importantly, we'd love you to let us know what issues you would like to see addressed in future editions. If you have any suggestions contact Orla Lynch, Education Training and Marketing Officer at:

028 3026 3840
info@newrycu.com

Newry Credit Union Ltd, 70-72 Hill Street Newry, Co.Down, BT34 1BE

t: 028 3026 3840 f: 028 3026 8161
e: info@newrycu.com w: www.newrycu.com



Holidays Are Coming!

The Directors, Management, Staff and Volunteers of Newry Credit Union would like to wish all our Members a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Newry Credit Union will close on Friday 23rd December at 5.00pm & re-open on Friday 30th December at 9.30am. The Credit Union will also be closed on Tuesday 3rd January.

Did you Know?

You can check your account information online at www.newrycu.com
All you need to do is register for a pin number and you can have access to your account 24/7!



B Jackson

Brendan Jackson
General Manager



In the hands of people who care



Don't Think Credit Card - Think Credit Union

Christmas is fast approaching and few of us get through the festive season without worrying about how we're going to pay for it all. With Store and Credit Cards so easily available, the temptation to take on one, or more can be great. However, the Credit Union is increasingly dealing with Members who, come the New Year, realise that they simply can't afford to pay back what they have borrowed.

Rip Off Rates

The convenience of the cards, coupled with the tempting introductory offers, disguises the fact that most Store Cards carry an interest rate of no less than 18.9% APR and many are significantly higher. In addition to this, Store and Credit Cards impose hefty charges for late payments. The bottom line is that Store and Credit Cards are a rip off and none of us should be paying these extortionate rates.



The Credit Union Way

As Credit Union Members we have access to low interest rate loans. When this year's proposed interest rebate of 21% is taken into account, Newry Credit Union's APR is less than 10%. As a community based, non-profit making organisation, any 'profit' we make is channelled straight back to you in the form of Dividends, Interest Rebates and improved services.

Remember, if you're starting to feel swamped by your debts, we offer a free and confidential debt counselling service for all our Members. If you would like to avail of this you can contact Rita Copas at 028 3026 3840 or online at info@newrycu.com

Interest Rates*		%PM	APR
CARD			
Marks & Spencers '& MORE Chargecard'	Std	1.45%	18.9%
Debenhams	Std	1.46%	18.9%
Mothercare	Std	1.53%	19.9%
NEXT	Std	1.91%	24.99%
Argos	Std	1.94%	25.9%

Did you Know?

You can apply for a loan online at www.newrycu.com. If your loan is accepted you can sign for it when you come in to collect your money. How convenient is that!

*Rates at 11th November 2005

Thanks to Our **Big** Hearted Members!



Following from our Breakfast and Busking fundraising event we were recently able to present a cheque for £840 to the Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke Association. Many thanks to the Members for their kind donations and to the Board of Directors for matching the £420 raised by the Members. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the talented musicians from St Colman's College, St Joseph's Boys' High School, St Mary's Girls' High School and the SELB Music Centre. Thanks to everyone involved.

New Posts / New People

Newry Credit Union was recently delighted to welcome Rita Copas and Orla Lynch to the team. The appointments of Rita and Orla represent a big step forward for the Credit Union as their posts are newly created and provide the opportunity to further improve the service we offer to our Members.

Rita Copas - Debt Counsellor



Rita, our new Debt Counsellor, has been involved with Credit Unions her whole life and has a strong background in both Credit Control and Debt Management. Part of her role is to help our Members to work out a weekly or monthly budget to allow them to meet their financial commitments. Rita has a very approachable, down to earth manner and none of our Members should feel anxious about contacting her to discuss their financial concerns.

Rita & Orla:

Orla Lynch - Education, Training and Marketing Officer

Orla, our new Education, Training and Marketing Officer has been appointed to build on the good work Kate Mulholland has done for over 18 years. Although Kate will continue to work part time on Education issues, Orla will be a full time resource for this ever-expanding area. A graduate of Queen's University and a former lecturer at both Queen's and the Open University, she has held a variety of marketing posts and before joining us worked as a Credit Union Inspector. Orla is full of enthusiasm and ideas as to how we can promote the benefits of Credit Union membership - so watch this space!

Are you a Suduko Addict? Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Suduko!

4	7							
			3			7		8
8		6		1				3
						4		
	9	2	4		1			
			9		3		5	
6		8		7			3	
		7		3			1	2
	3			6	2			

Did you Know?

Members of Newry Credit Union donated over £14,000 to good causes in our bucket collections at the counters last year. Thank you for your generosity.



Jingle Bells...

Our local schools will be getting us in the festive spirit during the month of December. Keep an eye on our website www.newrycu.com and the notices on our counters, to see who is playing when.

CU NOW!

Newry Credit Union is hugely committed to its Junior Members as after all you are the future of our Credit Union. Every year we organise a range of events with the assistance of the local schools such as the Annual Poster Competition, the School Quiz, The Art and Craft Award and in four local schools we have been piloting a School Credit Union. Many thanks to your schools, teachers, parents and of course you for making it all happen!

Could **You** Be Our First Credit Union Youth Board President?

If you're aged between 11 and 16 and want to help in shaping the Credit Union of the future then you could be just the person we're looking for! Newry Credit Union wants to start a Youth Board to discuss what we should be doing to appeal to you and your friends. All the positions that appear on the Board of Directors such as President, Treasurer and Secretary will be available on the Youth Board - you'll even have your own budget to manage!

If you think you have what it takes, then contact Orla Lynch on 028 3026 3840 or at info@newrycu.com

Stop! Look! Listen!

If you want to stop for a moment and take a look at our website and newsletter we're ready to listen to you. This is your chance to have a say on how we can make things better, and we're all ears! Just contact Orla Lynch on 028 3026 3840 or at info@newrycu.com

COMPETITION!!!



Q1. Which actor played Willie Wonka in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory?

Q2. What is the name of the latest Harry Potter book?

Q3. What do you call Wallace's dog?

Q4. Which group did Rachel Stevens belong to?

Q5. Which amphibian topped the charts this year?



All correct entries will be included in a draw for a **£20 HMV Voucher**. Post or email your entries to reach us by Saturday 31st December 2005.