

CU Newsletter

Spring 2019

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Download your app

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Next Generation Financial Technology

We announced in our summer newsletter that we were planning to launch a new app for members.



Whilst a little delayed, its launch is now imminent and will increase access to services via smartphones and tablets, as well as allowing members to securely check balances,

access statements, request withdrawals and access key information online.

Please keep an eye on our website for further details soon.



BANK OF ENGLAND
PRUDENTIAL REGULATION
AUTHORITY

Credit Unions are regulated by the PRA – The Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Authority. Their Credit Union Supervisory Team conducted their first risk assessment visit last November. Their report was broadly positive, finding that we are 'viable and sustainable'. There were a small number of recommendations, which the Board will follow up to enhance the strength of our business.

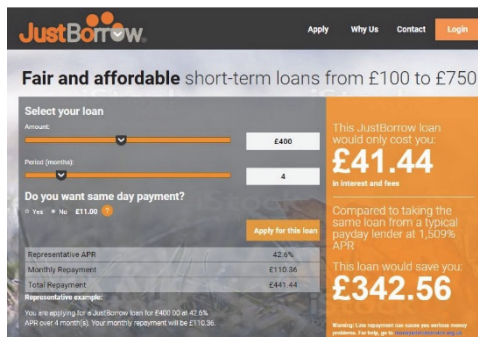
JustBorrow

We are just about to launch a new lending product, in association with several other credit unions. It is called **JustBorrow**. This will provide an affordable and ethical alternative to current Payday Loan companies.

Applicants will be able to borrow from £100 to £750 for between three and nine months. The online-only application process is quick and involves completing a short form, following which an instant decision is usually made. There is an option to elect for a fast payment and have the money paid within a few hours.

Monthly payments are automatically set up and collected via a debit card on the chosen day of the month. Representative APR 42.6%. For more information please visit:

<https://www.justborrow.co.uk/cu/lewishamplus>



JustBorrow Apply Why us Contact Login

Fair and affordable short-term loans from £100 to £750

Select your loan

Amount: £400

Period (months): 4

Do you want same day payment?
Yes No

Representative APR: 42.6%

Monthly Repayment: £110.36

Total Repayment: £441.44

Representative Example: You are applying for a JustBorrow loan for £400 for 4 months at 42.6% APR. Your monthly repayment will be £110.36

This JustBorrow loan would only cost you: **£41.44** in interest and fees

Compared to taking the same loan from a typical payday lender at 1,500% APR

This loan would save you: **£342.56**

Warning: Lenders regulated under the Consumer Credit Act 1974. APR is an annualised rate. Repayments are made via direct debit.

Existing members of the credit union may apply for this loan if they do not have any other outstanding loans with Lewisham Plus Credit Union.

Christmas Hamper Competition

Through our Facebook page we held a successful Christmas Hamper competition for our members.



We had three winners, Vicky, Leonard & Tina, who all

took home lovely hampers in time for Christmas. **Watch out for our Easter competition in March/April.**

London Living Wage

In January, Lewisham Plus CU was accredited with the Living Wage Foundation as a London Living Wage Employer.

This acknowledges that our organisation believes a fair day's work should mean a fair day's pay.

All our staff are paid at least at the level of the London Living Wage.



Social Media update

Following our launch on social media just over a year ago, we now have over 600 followers and likes on Facebook, where we post local information, items of interest and fun competitions.

You can help us get to our target of 1000 if you LIKE Lewisham + Bromley Credit Union on Facebook, then SHARE with your friends.



Matter of Life & Debt



A second series of the BBC's credited Life & Debt series was aired in November, heavily featuring our brilliant members and staff. This documentary series is about Credit Unions and other community financial services and has helped generate interest in the sector and a number of new members joining.

Lewisham Plus Credit Union Ltd is a not-for-profit savings and low cost loans service for people living or working in the London Boroughs of Lewisham and Bromley and all of SE19



AGM 1st March 2019

We invite and encourage all our members to attend our Annual General Meeting, to be held at:

7pm on Friday 1st Mar 2019 at The Grove Centre, 2 Jews Walk, Sydenham, London SE26 6PL

The AGM is free for Credit Union members, and includes light refreshments. The Grove Centre is just off Kirkdale, five minutes from Sydenham station and on the 122, 176, 197 and 202 bus routes. There is free parking outside.

Our 262 Kirkdale branch will close 6.30-8pm on 1st March for the AGM.

Update to Credit Union rules

In addition to routine business, we will be asking members to approve updated Rules for the Credit Union.

The main changes are

- (i) to reduce potential expense by allowing the supervisory committee to decide any appeal against expulsion;
- (ii) to amend the rules governing election of officers to reflect current regulatory requirements; and
- (iii) to update references to legislation and clarify wording.

A copy of the proposed new Rules, highlighting the changes, is available, alongside the existing Rules, on our website under *About Us, Terms & Conditions*.

If you are interested in being elected as an officer, see Rules 98-99 of the existing Rules. Nominations are due by Friday 15th February 2019.

Annual Report 2018

Our Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 30th Sept 2018 are now available on our website (under the "About Us" section). The report will be presented at our AGM, and then available at branches on request.

Membership: Grew 7.5% to 11,510 adults (up 927), 1,785 young savers (up 164) and 28 corporate a/cs.

Savings: Up by £598k to £5.4m for adults and £0.3m for young savers.

Dividends for 31st March 2019 are:

- **1.25% for young savers.**
- **0.5% for adults** (subject to AGM), increased after a successful year.

Loans: £3.6m granted, 6,462 loans, up from £3.2m/5,776 loans last year.

Financial: Income from members met 94% of expenses. Bad debt down to 4.3%. Capital ratio 9.18%.

Revenue Account for year ended 30th Sept 18

	2018	2017
Loan interest receivable	742,860	651,068
Interest payable	(14,240)	(22,836)
Net interest income	728,620	628,232
Fees receivable	16,366	21,642
Fees payable	(35,180)	(52,432)
Net fees and commission	(18,814)	(30,790)
Other operating income	115,171	155,433
Administrative expenses	(453,719)	(451,768)
Depreciation	(28,321)	(25,742)
Other operating expenses	(96,856)	(93,927)
Impairment on loans for bad and doubtful debts	(164,146)	(175,712)
Surplus before tax	81,935	5,726
Corporation tax	(2,549)	(3,220)
Surplus for year	<u>79,386</u>	<u>2,506</u>
Comprehensive income	79,386	2,506

'Interest payable' means dividends paid to members.

Balance Sheet 30th Sept 18

	2018	2017
Assets		
Cash and central banks	51,328	41,498
Bank accounts	2,688,477	2,730,737
Loans to members	3,599,151	2,919,410
Tangible fixed assets	100,836	110,241
Prepaid and accrued inc.	<u>38,280</u>	<u>35,622</u>
Total Assets	6,478,072	5,837,508
Liabilities		
Customer accounts	5,701,379	5,103,869
Other liabilities	21,056	27,503
Accruals and def. income	<u>118,343</u>	<u>162,552</u>
	5,855,102	5,293,924
Other reserves	341,965	328,240
General reserves	<u>295,329</u>	<u>215,344</u>
Total reserves	<u>637,294</u>	<u>543,584</u>
Total Liabilities	6,478,072	5,837,508

Paul Treece, Treasurer - extract from audited accts.

Credit Union Services

Anyone living or working in Lewisham, Bromley or SE19 can join.

Saving and Borrowing

Save up to £30,000, £3 joining fee for adults, no fee for young savers.

Personal Loans up to £10,000 from 0.75% to 2%pm (9.4% to 26.8% APR).

SAYB 2% to 3%pm (26.8% to 42.6% APR), with reduced APR if you qualify for an SAYB level 2 loan over £800.

Household Goods Loan

Help to buy those necessities for home. Borrow up to £500 in addition to an existing loan, 3% pm/42.6% APR.

Loyalty Saver Loan 0.5% pm/6.2% APR, for members who can secure the whole loan against their savings.

Corporate Accounts

Deposit account available for local associations, clubs and charities.

Engage Ethical Card Services

Classic - low cost prepaid Visa debit card, £2 per month, no load fees.*

Smartcash electronic pocket money debit card for 8-16s. £10 one-off (waived), low monthly fee.*



Current Account - Visa debit card with direct debit, £5.95 per month.*

*See full Terms and Conditions for details.

To protect your funds we require proof of ID for all withdrawals.

Branch Contacts & Hours

Sydenham 262 Kirkdale, SE26 4RS
Tel: 0208 778 4738

Email: admin@pluscu.co.uk

The Green Man at 355 Bromley Road, Catford, SE6 2RP
Tel: 0208 461 4721

Bromley Plus at 54 Cotmandene Cres. St.Paul's Cray, BR5 2RG
Tel: 0208 312 1541

**All open 9.30-1pm Mon-Fri.
Sydenham only 6.30-8pm Friday
and 10am-noon Saturday**

New Cross Learning, 283-5 New Cross Road, SE14 6AS (Tue & Wed)

Closed Bank Holidays and as per notices.

Dormant accounts under £10 balance - annual £2.50 fee (now includes adult and junior accounts).

Online Joining & Loans

Apply to join the credit union and for loans from us using online forms.

Online Account & Transactions

View recent transactions online in our Members' area and approve money transfers (Web PIN required)

SMS Balance Enquiries

Text Balance to 07537 410334

The text will cost your standard network rate for an SMS. If you don't get a response email admin@pluscu.co.uk with your name, member number and mobile phone number.

Free inclusive Life Insurance

Members aged below 70 receive up to £1,000 life insurance at no charge. Loans are also covered up to £5,000 for members up to age 79.**

**All insurances subject to policy limits

We strive to promote financial inclusion and to be the trusted and preferred provider of local financial services in Lewisham and Bromley.

Our individual and approachable service is volunteer led but professionally managed.

We exist for you and because of you.