

North
Birmingham



Community
Credit Union

N.B.C. Credit Union News

Issue 3

Spring 2010

Welcome to the third edition of North Birmingham Community Credit Union's newsletter. We hope that you enjoy catching up with what's happening in your Credit Union.



**Erdington Shop
is open**

Monday-Friday

10.00am-4.00pm

and

Saturdays

10.00am-12.30pm

**For all credit
union**

transactions

North Birmingham Community Credit Union is holding its AGM on Saturday 24th April 2010 in the new Community Connection Room In Erdington Library at 1pm.

The AGM gives members the chance to find out more about the credit union. There is a report on the credit union's performance over the preceding year and we present the accounts. Also at the AGM the members elect the board of directors for the forthcoming year.

Although long standing members of the credit

union will have seen a number of changes over the past few years with the appointment of paid staff, the opening of the Credit Union shop in Sutton New Road, Erdington and the extension of the common bond to cover Hodge Hill constituency and Solihull. However North Birmingham Community Credit Union remains a co-operative, not-for-profit, volunteer run organisation. Whilst we have employees to manage the credit union on a day-to-day basis, control lies firmly within the hands of the members, through their elected representatives.

The Board of Directors are responsible for the general control, direction and management of the affairs, funds and records of the Credit Union. Directors often bring skills gained outside the credit union to the position while gaining useful experience for their own personal development.

If you would like more information about credit union directorship, please contact the credit union head office. We can arrange for you to observe a meeting, or discuss the role with a director or member of staff.



Your Credit Union Needs You

NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 24th APRIL 2010

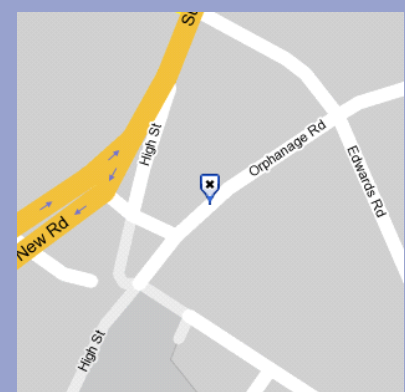
At 1.00pm

Erdington Library, Orphanage Road

Erdington, B24 9HP

Lunch Provided*—All members welcome.

***to help with catering arrangements please RSVP by 21/4/10**



New from NBCCU—The ALTO Mastercard® Prepaid Card.

Do you want to be completely in charge of your money, but still enjoy the flexibility of paying by card?

If your answer is “YES!” the ALTO Mastercard® prepaid card from your credit union could be for you. The ALTO Mastercard® prepaid card has been developed specifically by Unity Trust Bank (the Credit Union’s bankers) to help give you total control over your money. It is not a debit or credit card, so you can only spend the money loaded on to it—but you can use it just like a debit or a credit card everywhere you see the Mastercard Acceptance Mark



The ALTO Mastercard® is a cost effective way to manage your money as once you have

purchased the card at a cost of £6.50 it has:

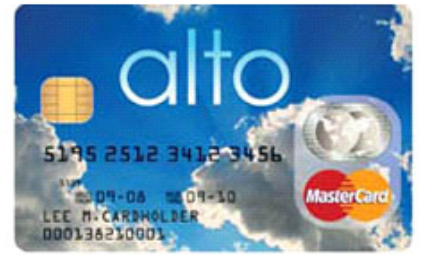
- no monthly fee
- no annual fee - it's valid for 36 months
- a low top-up fee of 50p per transaction

Depending on how you use it, it can be one of the most affordable prepaid cards currently available.

Why opt for a prepaid card?

Convenience

- Easy application with no need for credit checks
- Access regular payments (such as benefits) without having to travel to the Credit Union shop
- Use your card to make purchases on-line, over the phone or by mail order
- Withdraw cash from cash machines at any time (there



is a £1.00 charge for this)

Security

- Your card is a safe alternative to carrying cash
- You can stop a lost or stolen card with one simple phone call

For more information regarding the ALTO Mastercard® please contact the Credit Union on 0121 350 8883. Alternatively you may wish to visit the Unity Trust Bank website at www.unity.co.uk and follow the links to the ALTO card page.

Nomination Form—information for members

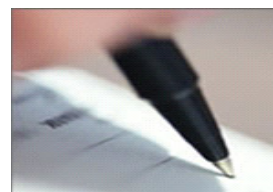
New members often find it a bit disconcerting when we start talking to them about dying just as they are completing their application form to join but we do have a good reason for doing this.

When a member dies we need to know what they want us to do with their savings and any insurance they are entitled to. Most people don't realise that Credit Unions are covered by the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 and that the

form of nomination they complete on their application form can over rule any instructions in a will, but only on the first £5000 in savings.

If you have been a member for a long time, or you have had a change in your personal circumstances (such as widowhood or divorce), we would advise you to check with the Credit Union that the nomination details we have for you are correct. Alternatively you may wish to provide us with the

details of your 'next of kin' or executor so we can ensure that your money is distributed according to your wishes.



It is important to keep your nomination form UP TO DATE

Remember the form of nomination is no substitute for a will. To make a will, you can obtain a will form from a good stationers or many solicitors offer a will making service for a reasonable fee.

Mistletoe in May? Jingle Bells in July?

(It's never too early to start saving for Christmas)



Over the past years a number of members have asked if they could open a separate Christmas savings account with the Credit Union. As a result we are pleased to announce that separate Christmas Club accounts are now available.

NBCCU's Christmas Club offers a simple and secure way to put money away for Christmas. A

Credit Union Christmas Club account means that members can avoid the trap of being tied into a saving scheme with a particular supermarket or paying over the odds for a hamper or vouchers. NBCCU's Christmas Club account runs alongside your ordinary share account but is not linked to your borrowing. Therefore, unlike your ordinary savings account, you can draw on your Christmas Club account even if

you have a loan (providing your loan is not in arrears!). It lets you save at your own pace, you can add extra at any time. To help you plan for Christmas, withdrawals are only permitted between 1st November and 31st December (unless 60 days notice is given). Savings for the following year can recommence at any time. Even if Christmas is not your big celebration you may want to consider opening a second savings account for other special events.



Christmas Cheer or Seasonal Swindle?

Preparing promotional material for NBCCU's new Christmas Club led Credit Union staff to investigate the true cost of Christmas Hampers. Paying £5.00 per week into a hamper scheme seems a good way of spreading the cost of Christmas over the year but the value of the goods rarely reflects the cost of the hamper. In our example a £200 hamper contained only around £155 worth of food if purchased in one of the four main supermarkets* (excluding Christmas offers). Hamper companies also benefit from what is known as 'economy of scale' buying goods wholesale but don't appear to pass their savings on. So NBCCU's Christmas Club makes good sense—no vouchers, no brands you've never heard off—just good old fashioned cash!



*www.mysupermarket.co.uk

Don't be an ostrich...

Unlike banks or other loans companies NBCCU does not borrow money in order to finance the lending we do. The money the Credit Union lends to our members comes from the savings members have invested with us.

Because the money the credit union lends belongs to you, we take the recovery of bad debts very seriously. The Credit Union has a duty of care to protect your interests, therefore if a member

defaults on a loan and does not come to an arrangement to repay, we will always take all steps available in order to recover the money including pursuing the debt through the county courts and the use of debt recovery agents.

In 2009/10 the credit union recovered over £6000 in bad debts through the use of debt



recovery agents and obtained County Court Judgements against 11 debtors. County Court Judgements can ruin your credit rating and make it difficult to obtain credit in the future. Always contact the credit union immediately if you think you may be in difficulty. We will do what we can to ensure that you are able to manage your finances and repay your loan. Don't bury your head in the sand.

Important information about compensation arrangements

North Birmingham Community Credit Union is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The FSCS can pay compensation to depositors if a credit union is unable to meet its financial obligations. Most depositors – including most individuals and small businesses – are covered by the scheme.

In respect of deposits, an eligible

depositor is entitled to claim up to £50,000. For joint accounts each account holder is treated as having a claim in respect of their share so, for a joint account held by two eligible depositors, the maximum amount that could be claimed would be £50,000 each (making a total of £100,000). The £50,000 limit relates to the combined amount in all the eligible depositor's accounts

with the credit union, including their share of any joint account, and not to each separate account. For further information about the scheme (including the amounts covered and eligibility to claim) please ask at the Credit Union, refer to the FSCS website:

<http://www.fscs.org.uk/>
or call 0800 678 1100.

Win £25

in gift

vouchers

North Birmingham Community Credit Union has recently signed up to the Association of British Credit Unions' Code of Governance for Credit Unions. This is important to the Credit Union as it works to strengthen our internal structures and our accountability to members and stakeholders. The Code aims also to complement the regulatory framework (provided by the FSA) for credit unions.

Part of the Code of Governance is that the Board will conduct an annual survey of membership to ascertain the level of satisfaction with credit union services. **We would ask you take time to complete the survey enclosed with this newsletter and return it to the Credit Union at the address below by 31st May 2010. Completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw for £25 in Marks & Spencer vouchers.**

Important Notice

The Credit Union Shop now has a switchboard telephone system. Please use

0121 350 8883

For all enquiries and ask to be put through to the person or section you require. Thank you.

Included with this newsletter is a statement of your account. The statement shows all transactions that have taken place on your account between 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. If you have not paid in or drawn out any shares in the last 12 months then the statement will only show the balance (minus the annual membership fee if due).

You can start saving again at any time either in person through the shop or your local collection point or by Bank Standing Order and take advantage of NBCCU's savings accounts, insurance and low cost loans.

"it pays to plan ahead"

www.nbccu.org.uk

This Newsletter is produced by North Birmingham Community Credit Union
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North Birmingham Community
Credit Union is supported by:

 Birmingham City Council