

# THE BUZZ



## Christmas 2023 Newsletter

### A Christmas message from our CEO



Dear Members,

We are gearing up for what we think might be one of our busiest Christmas's ever, as we help more of our members to spread the cost of Christmas, and send out all the Christmas savings that have built up during 2023.

It will be a very stressful time for many, especially those in private rented housing or on zero hours contracts, who may be tempted to use unscrupulous lenders or loan sharks to make ends meet.

However, credit union members are better off than most as they not only have savings to fall back on, but also have access to affordable loans if they need to borrow. But don't forget:

### You don't need...

- ✦ a social media picture with Santa to be a great parent;
- ✦ colour coordinated decorations to feel festive. If you like tinsel, don't bin it - keep it! (it NEVER goes out of fashion);
- ✦ matching Christmas pyjamas to have a happy family;
- ✦ a Christmas Eve box for your children to have a good time;
- ✦ a mountain of presents underneath the Christmas tree or perfectly placed stockings crammed with gifts;
- ✦ an immaculately decorated dinner table with fancy napkins and a cheese board for afters.

**Christmas is about spending time with family and friends, so don't be persuaded to spend more than you can afford.**

Don't forget you are part of our credit union family and we are here to help our members through good times and bad, so please talk to us if you are struggling, our Member Support Team are here to help.



Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas, from everyone at MCU





# BUSY BEE LOTTERY



Earlier this year we introduced our very own Busy Bee Lottery.

So far this year we have raised £6,733 for good causes in Manchester, including The Mustard Tree, Barnabus, Willow Wood Hospice and Feed my City.

It's really easy to sign up using your new MCU App →

## Enterprising Communities Fund – new finance fund for Social Enterprises in GM



### Playing our part to help our local community

As a part of the Greater Manchester Credit Union Consortium, and in partnership with some fantastic local organisations, together we've created the Enterprising Communities Fund to help grow social businesses!



Find out more...



Contact Us  
0161 277 1007



Website  
[www.gmcvo/gmsocinvest](http://www.gmcvo/gmsocinvest)



We are delighted and proud to provide the first credit union loan under the ECF, working with GMCVO and other funders. MCU members are local people and because of the savings they have built up over the years we have been able to lend to TLC, which is a social enterprise helping people in our community. This fulfils one of our social goals which is to contribute to the economic regeneration of our communities.

Using the community wealth created by our members to enable local social enterprises to improve the lives of others is something that fits well with the not-for-profit, co-operative and ethical principles of Credit Unions. We hope that our Credit Union and others in Greater Manchester can provide more of these loans to help the local social enterprise sector continue to thrive.

## MCU Dragon Boaters!



In May this year staff at Manchester Credit Union (plus one board member and one husband!) used one of their volunteering days to take part in a Dragon Boat race to raise funds for one of our chosen charities – Barnabus, a charity working to support homeless people in Manchester.

## BEE SMART

Don't forget, if you work for one of our payroll partners you can save and borrow directly from your pay with BEESMART - our financial wellbeing benefit.

You can check if your employer offers this great service on our website:

**[beesmartpayroll.co.uk](https://beesmartpayroll.co.uk)**

If your employer isn't one of our partners yet - tell them about us!

They can email us for further info at:

[payroll@manchestercreditunion.co.uk](mailto:payroll@manchestercreditunion.co.uk)



## Beat the January blues with our New Year Prize Draw!

Spent too much during the festive season?

Keep watching our social media pages for our exclusive member prize draw where they'll be **a chance for 10 members to WIN £100!**

You can find a list of our social media pages at the end of this newsletter.

## SHOP SMART NOT SHARK

## WHERE TO GO FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

IT COSTS A LOT MORE THAN THE PRICE

TAG WHEN BORROWING FROM A

**LOAN SHARK**

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

**Report Today**  
0300 555 2222

## Stop Loan Sharks Campaign

Think smart, not shark when it comes to Christmas shopping this year.

Shop around - there are many deals and offers out there.

Be wary of any new friends offering to help you out quickly. Know the signs and get the right help and support you need.

For help and support with a loan shark, Stop Loan Sharks England is here to help.

Contact them today on  
0300 555 2222 or visit:

[www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk)

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

## Christmas Opening Hours



Our Head Office and Wythenshawe branches will close at 2pm on Friday 22nd December 2023 and re-open Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

The Rochdale branch will remain closed until further notice. We are close to securing a much better location, so keep an eye on the website for further details:  
[manchestercreditunion.co.uk](http://manchestercreditunion.co.uk)



## Safe savings with MCU

Your savings with MCU are fully covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). This means that the FSCS can pay you compensation if your financial services provider fails - including credit unions.

An eligible depositor is protected up to £85,000 per person per provider. This limit relates to the combined amount in all of a member's accounts with the same provider.

Visit the FSCS website for more info: [www.fscs.org.uk](http://www.fscs.org.uk), or call 0800 678 1100.

**Happy Christmas from all MCU staff!**



**Follow us on our social media channels**



**@manchestercreditunion**



**@CUManchester**



**@ManchesterCU**



**@Manchester Credit Union**