

CREDIT U

Spring 2019

New Year New start!

Make 2019 your year for financial well-being

Cool holidays begin with hot savings

Save now for that dream holiday

Wedding Fever

Plan now for the big day!



CREDIT U

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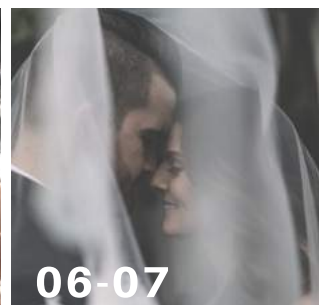
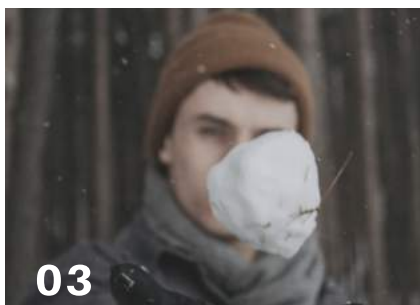
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A background image of a person wearing a grey scarf and black gloves, holding a snowball in front of their face. Snow is falling around them.

FREEZE OUT SNOWBALLING DEBT

CLEAR YOUR DEBT IN 2019

£1.578 trillion of debt is owned by individuals in the UK, which equates to an average debt of £30,537 per adult! Getting into debt is an easy thing to do and can very quickly spiral out of control due to a number of reasons such as life changes, redundancy, living beyond your means or just burying your head in the sand. Indeed particularly after Christmas getting a grip on your debt is important not only to ensure financial stability but also for your own wellbeing and it's important to recognise that the quick fix of a pay day loan or a high street lender could land you further into debt due to the higher interest rates you'll be paying. Obviously in an ideal world none of us would be in debt but credit card bills and loans are part of our daily lives and if things do spiral out of control it's really important that you get the right help and advice to get your finances back on track.

Credit unions offer workshops and key advice and can provide debt consolidation loans that can help you pay off your credit cards, loans or other outstanding debts. You may be able to pay off your debts faster and pay one monthly manageable payment giving you peace of mind that all of your financial commitments have been met. For further information about your nearest credit union visit our website www.creditu.co.uk.

THE IMPACT OF THE REGULATION OF HIGH-COST, SHORT-TERM CREDIT (HCSTC)



SINCE JANUARY 2015
ON LENDERS AND BORROWERS



Key findings

- HCSTC regulation has helped protect payday borrowers from significant financial harm
- Our key research finding is that the most likely behaviour that someone who is declined a payday loan will demonstrate is to seek another borrowing option
- Borrowing from friends and family is common but an infinite solution
- Participants had very limited knowledge of alternative credit providers

Recommendations

- More and better credit products
- Increased regulatory activity to tackle a two-tier payday loans industry
- Organisational innovation for people to avoid un-affordable credit
- Feasibility of a No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS)
- The development of guidance on informal lending
- Guidelines for debt advice charities on specific courses of action for declined payday applicants





WHEN YOU REACH BOILING POINT

PERSONAL LOANS FOR EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS

Every homeowner dreads the day their appliances break down particularly during winter time. The stress of engineer calls outs and the cost of potentially replacing products can make a real dent on your finances especially after the added expense of Christmas. The temptation to turn to a quick fix from a high street lender can seem attractive but with very often hidden annual percentage rates, that affordable loan can turn into an even greater debt and land you in long term trouble. Credit Unions offer personalised loans with low annual percentage rates that can be utilised for appliance breakdowns as well as for multiple purposes. Applications are based on your credit history and the ability to repay the loan back. The personal loans can also be utilised for home repairs such as roof damage or structural damage, car repairs and emergency medical repairs. In addition the loans can be utilised to consolidate debt, by paying one low monthly fee rather than several loans with different rates. Therefore, saving you money over time! For further information about your nearest credit union visit www.creditu.co.uk.

A romantic close-up of a bride and groom. The groom is on the left, leaning in to kiss the bride on the cheek. The bride is on the right, smiling and looking towards the groom. They are both wearing white wedding attire, and the bride's veil is visible, framing their faces.

*It's a nice day
for a
white wedding!*



PLANNING FOR THE BIG DAY



We all look forward to a good wedding. There's nothing like a crisp spring or balmy summer wedding, the sound of the church bells ringing, the sun on your face and meeting up with family and friends, truly happy occasions. Or not so happy for the bride and groom when they are left to cover the cost! And with the average price of a UK wedding costing between £20,000 and £30,000 (according to Money Supermarket research) that big day can have quite a financial impact on the married couple as they start their new lives together. Thankfully there are many credit unions that are offering low interest loans and savings accounts that can help towards affording that "big day" and with their responsible and ethical lending policy you can be assured that you won't be paying extortionate interest rates.

Many credit unions are offering wedding loans that can be taken out individually or as a joint loan. Every wedding loan is a personalised package based on your requirements and circumstances where you can borrow between £500 and £30,000 for over 6 to 60 months with interest rates from 3.9% APR (14.9% APR representative), no admin charges, no set up fees and no early repayment penalties. Furthermore, you can save as you pay back your loan, leaving a small nest egg following loan completion.

If you aren't looking for a loan, credit unions are offering a number of fully insured saving accounts which are perfect if you are looking to save for your big day. With wedding saving accounts you can save by direct debit (weekly or monthly), make extra deposits paid by cheque or debit card and you can transfer your savings into your bank (at the front counter, over the phone or online). Furthermore, if you are a member of a credit union's employer's scheme, you can save direct from your salary.

Capital Credit Union are even offering honeymoon saving accounts that your family, friends and guests can pay into, helping to contribute towards the cost of the honeymoon and removing the need for wedding gift lists. All you have to do is set up the saving's account and provide your guests with your membership numbers on the invitations. Simple! Leaving you more time to concentrate on planning your big day!



COOL HOLIDAYS BEGIN WITH HOT SAVINGS

PLAN NOW FOR YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAY

Whether you are planning a lazy week in the sun relaxing by the pool, skiing down the slopes in the Alps, backpacking off-the-beaten-track or just recharging the batteries with a weekend break, why not chat to your local credit union about a flexible holiday loan or ethical holiday savings account.

Credit unions are not for profit organisations, owned and controlled by their members rather than shareholders. They are committed to helping their members and local community through offering limitless financial services that improve their quality of life. Credit unions and banks serve members differently and can offer some of the best rates on the market and dividends for their members whilst delivering a highly personalised service.





Many people may think it is difficult to join a credit union due to specific rules and regulations, however, there are many credit unions who have different requirements for joining members, therefore essentially there is a credit union for everyone! Find your local credit union at www.creditu.co.uk and choose the right service for you.

Holiday Loans

- Competitive interest rates 8.5% (variable 8.86% APR)
- The amount of interest you pay decreases as you pay back the loan
- No charges or penalties if you want to pay the loan off early
- Free loan protection insurance to qualifying members
- Flexible repayment options
- No transaction fees or administration costs
- Speedy decisions – usually within just two days
- No processing charges or documentation fees, so there are no hidden surprises.

Holiday Savings

- Simple, straightforward accounts
- Save from £5 to £1,000 each month (must maintain balance of £10 to retain membership)
- Annual dividend return paid in December each year
- Quick and easy access to make withdrawals by BACS transfer
- Free Life Savings protection (restrictions apply)
- Easy to make regular contributions by Direct Debit or from your salary for members of any employee schemes.
- Savings accounts are protected by the FSCS up to £85,000.

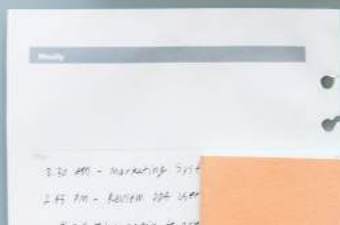
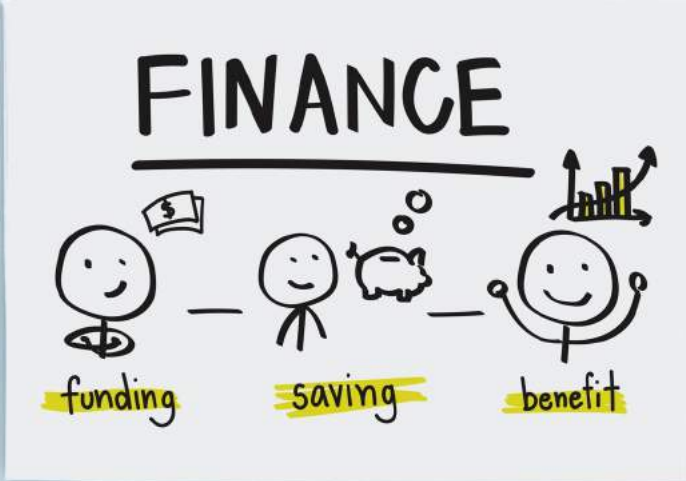


Don't let obstacles

get in your way!

#COOLHOLIDAYSBEGINWITHHOTSAVINGS





BE WELL!

THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Supporting the financial wellbeing of your employees is good for them and for your business. Poor financial wellbeing can affect physical, mental and social health which can result in poorer job performance, reduced ability to concentrate, lower productivity and absenteeism.

Financial stress has a major impact on the productivity of your workforce, and with reports suggesting that it costs the UK economy £121 billion and 18 million working hours in time off work each year, it has never been a more important time to consider your employees financial well being.

Credit unions are member owned, not for profit, financial cooperatives that provide savings accounts, affordable loans and other financial services to their members. They are a fantastic source to help your employees enjoy financial freedom and provide them with savings schemes and ethical low rate loans paid conveniently through payroll.

Payroll savings and loans schemes allow employees to save and/ or make loan repayments via a payroll deduction made by their employer and transferred to the credit union. These schemes are easy to set up, offer competitive rates and provide an opportunity for the employee to build up savings at the same time as repaying a loan. For the employer there are no fees, it's straightforward to set up and it's a fantastic employee perk and corporate and social responsibility attribute for your company to support the local economy and the community projects that the credit union is involved in. Furthermore, it will help to alleviate your staff's financial stress, reduce sickness absence and increase productivity.

CREDIT UNION NEWS



1

LINCOLNSHIRE CREDIT UNION JOINS LOCAL CAMPAIGN TO HELP MOST VULNERABLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Lincolnshire Credit Union receives backing from Lincolnshire's Cooperatives Community Champions scheme to offer support to those facing financial difficulties.

2

CO-OP CREDIT UNION LAUNCHES AN INITIATIVE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DISASTER CHARITY

Co-op Credit Union joined forces with the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) and launched a digital Christmas card to raise funds for a disaster charity.

3

FELIX CREDIT UNION HONOURED AT COMMUNITY AWARDS

During the week of the 'Community Stars Awards 2018', Felix Credit Union (FCU) were announced runners-up in the category for 'community group of the year'.



YOU ARE THEIR IDOL!



It is extremely important to get started on the path to financial success when you are younger. Children are like “educational sponges” in the first six to seven years of their lives. At this early age they can be easily taught to play musical instruments, speak foreign languages and even make financial decisions such as managing and saving money. Saving money has no age limit! You can give your children a head start by teaching them how to save money and showing them how to handle money from their younger years to adulthood.

As a parent or carer you are the person your children will look to for everything. They will observe the way you talk to other people, the way you treat people around you and even the way you handle money. It is your responsibility to teach them the value of money and more importantly how to take care of it.

To encourage children to get into the habit of saving, many credit unions offer Junior Saving Accounts and as a parent or legal guardian you can open a saving account as early as their birth and develop the discipline that will stand your children in good stead for the rest of their lives. Furthermore, you can teach them how their savings can benefit from high interest rates, learn about good saving habits and set up supplementary accounts for their overall goal – whether that's a new toy, car or college!

We're all about



To find out how you can build your financial future, please enter your postcode and find your nearest Credit Union:

[Find Your Local Credit U](#)

Who are we?

Credit U is a online platform that helps to promote credit unions, their benefits and services and sign posts visitors to their local credit union.

The platform has been developed after conducting extensive academic research into consumer finance and the need to help people find ethical savings and affordable loans to move people away from high cost credit. The portal is supported by seasonal online/offline marketing campaigns to create awareness of credit unions and their services, drive traffic to our portal, connect applicants to their nearest credit union and provide credit unions with more quality leads for your business.

For further information please visit www.creditu.co.uk

Our Mission:

- ✓ We can help you build your financial future
- ✓ We help you find affordable loans and ethical savings
- ✓ We serve everyone at any life stage



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