



FUSION
Credit Union Limited

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

The Fusion Credit Union Newsletter

Issue 15, 2013

**Chadsmoor:
'Love Your Street'**

**An Alternative to
Pay Day Loans**

Bishop of Lichfield Joins Fusion

The Bishop of Lichfield, Jonathan Gledhill, has become the latest church leader to join his local credit union, signing up for Fusion.

The Bishop said, "Nationwide, one million families are taking out payday loans every month as they struggle with rising living costs. Our faith in Christ calls us to love the poor and vulnerable with our actions. That is why the Church must be actively involved in supporting the development of real lending alternatives, such as credit unions. This is not an optional activity, but a fundamental part of our witness and service to all God's people."



The Church of England wants to help credit unions become bigger, better known and easier to access, to compete with high interest lenders.

Further afield, over 40 Bishops in 29 dioceses took part in International Credit Union Day celebrations with over 50 credit unions across the country.

'Love Your Street' in Chadsmoor



The Wrights Avenue playing fields in the Chadsmoor district of Cannock were the venue for the final appearance of Fusion's "Beat the Shark", loan shark awareness display. Fusion joined Chadsmoor's '**Love your Street**' event, which was organised by Cannock CVS and designed to encourage a spirit of community and pride in the area.



A wide range of community Groups, local businesses and support agencies had stalls at the event which was very well attended by people in the area. The "Beat the Shark" boxing was very popular, particularly with the local children, who were given inflatable plastic sharks as 'prizes'.

Of the four "Beat the Shark" events that we have run this year, this generated the most interest and the best response in terms of new members.

Volunteers Wanted!

Jackie Whittenbury is Fusion's Volunteer coordinator for the Lichfield area and has the job of organising volunteers to operate all the collection points in the area.

"We are particularly keen to extend our pool of Collection Point volunteers in the Lichfield area, especially for the Saturday morning collection point" says Jackie. So, if you can spare a couple of hours on Saturday morning Jackie will be delighted to hear from you: info@fusioncreditunion.co.uk.

An Alternative to Pay Day Loans and Doorstep Lenders

Fusion has had a significant increase in enquiries for loans over recent months, particularly for new members who have joined from the Cannock area. October has been the most successful month for loan enquiries.



Tim Warner and his record month for loans

“People are beginning to realise that there is an alternative to expensive door step lenders and pay day loan companies” said Tim Warner, Chairman of Fusion’s Loans Committee.

Helen, a member from Cannock, is a typical example of how Fusion Credit Union can help people by reducing the cost of borrowing and encourage saving.

Helen became aware of Fusion through the **Love Your Street** event. She had previously taken out a loan from a door step lending company which cost over £200 in interest.

“I needed a new cooker and was able to get a loan from Fusion, which cost me only £5.94 in interest. The loan from Fusion saved me a lot of money compared to the other lender.”



“Fusion has also encouraged me to save. My Child Benefit is now paid straight into my Fusion savings account and I will have saved enough by Christmas to buy something really nice for my little boy.”

Did you know...?

International Credit Union Day has been celebrated on the third Thursday of October since 1948.



Fusion Credit Union Collection Points

Cannock Chase

Civic Centre,
Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG

Mondays: 10.00 - 12.00

Chasetown/Burntwood

The Old Mining College
Chasetown, WS7 4QH

Wednesdays: 10.00 - 12.00

North Lichfield

Jigsaw, 72 Dimbles Lane
Lichfield, WS13 7HL

Wednesdays: 10.00 - 12.00

Saturdays: 10.00 - 12.00

Curborough Community Centre
Reynolds Close, Lichfield, WS13 7NY

Tuesdays 08:30 - 10:30

Lichfield City

CAB, Levetts Fields
Lichfield, WS13 6HY

Fridays: 13.30 - 15.30

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Please send any questions or comments to info@fusioncreditunion.co.uk

Board of Directors: Janet Bamber, Maurice Keenan, Peter Selwyn,
Valerie Wale, Tim Warner

Supervisory Committee: Tony Kelly, Shaun Elliott, Neil Whyte

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