

News Plus

CROYDON MERTON AND SUTTON CREDIT UNION

JUNE 2021

WE MISS YOU!

It has now been over a year since we were able to see many of our members in person and we have missed you! Sadly, we are yet to receive confirmation that we are able to re-open all of our help desks across the borough however, we are hopeful that we will have an update on this soon!

In special circumstances, we are able to assist some of our most vulnerable members in person at both Access Croydon and Hill House in Sutton, however this needs to be pre-arranged with a member of the team. Please contact us if you require this support.

RAISING OUR PROFILE

Raising our profile within the community is high on our priority list for this year, as we know that there are still many people who do not know about the benefits of being a member!

We have had some new banners made, by the team at Ink and Social to be displayed across the boroughs that we serve - You may have already seen the one which is displayed at Hill House in Sutton!



We know that many of our new members join because of recommendations from friends, so thank you to all of our members who recommend us! Please continue to spread the word about us and share posts.

SALARY SAVINGS SCHEME



For many years, our Payroll Deductions Scheme has been providing local businesses with a safe and secure savings account for their employees to save money directly from their salaries.

Whilst all of the feedback we have received about this scheme has been positive, we decided to give it a freshen up and this is now being re-launched as our Salary Savings Scheme.

By joining the scheme and becoming a member of CroydonPlus, members would have access to all of our products, including separate Budget Accounts, Young Savers Accounts for children, Christmas Saver account. We also offer Low Cost Loans, with no set up fee, no early repayment penalty, no minimum loan sum and personalised repayment plans.

We have already partnered with a number of local businesses which are listed on our website and we are always happy to welcome new partners to the scheme. You can find all of the information needed to join on our website at: www.croydonplus.co.uk/salary-savings-scheme/

NEW MEMBER PRIZE DRAW



Our members mean the world to us! If it wasn't for all of you and your support, we would not be able to continue providing our services to the local community. We now have almost 8000 active members, but we always have room for more!

We know that many of our members already recommend us to their friends and family & we wanted to reward those that

do, so this Spring we are launching a (Three Month) New Member Prize Draw!! All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning is carry on or simply start recommending us!

If one of your recommendations goes on to join CroydonPlus and saves regularly with us for three months, then both of you will receive an entry into the draw – completely free of charge! The more people that you recommend, the more chances you have of winning the prize fund!

Full Terms and Conditions can be viewed on our website at:
www.croydonplus.co.uk/new-member-prize-draw/

PAYMENTS

Members wishing to make direct payments into their CroydonPlus Account, should do so by processing a Standing Order Request via their bank, and all amendments must be carried out by the member. Sadly, we are not able to provide a Direct Debit Facility although this is something we may be able to provide in the future.

FAMILY LOAN

Please be advised that there will be some changes our existing Family Loan Product, with effect from July 2021, which includes an amendment to the interest rate. We will update all members that this will impact in due course.

CHILDRENS ART COMPETITION

In March we launched a competition, inviting the younger members of our community to design some images for us which could be used on Marketing Material in the future.

We were amazed by the talent shown on all of the entries and we would like to thank everyone for their entries.

After careful consideration we crowned Christabel and Niamh as our WINNERS! Well done to both of them!



By Christabel - Age 10



By Niamh - Age 5

MEET THE TEAM

We would like you to meet.....

Niyi Osilaja

Customer Service & Administrative Officer / Manual Tester



Niyi graduated with BSc Mathematics from The University of Manchester. Still keen on studying, Niyi originally joined us as a volunteer in 2014 whilst studying for a Statistics Graduate Diploma at Birkbeck London University. After completing the course, he was offered a permanent role as Customer Service & Administrative Officer in 2016.

Niyi is known to be an all-round performer within the team and has the flexibility to cover several positions including managing deposit allocations, new membership applications and assisting members at our Customer Service Desk. Niyi prides himself on being very approachable for both our members and colleagues. Furthermore, with IT skills at his disposal, he regularly updates the website & social media, as well as assisting members registering for online services and accessing our Mobile App.

Niyi's sense of humour is what attracts many people to him, both in and outside of work. He enjoys going to the cinema, playing computer games, surfing the net, and reading IT magazines, practicing Tae-Kwondo and Clarinet, as well as spending time with friends and family. He dreams of traveling around the world. Truly proficient in technology, he is always looking to improve his career and his lifestyle.

INDUSTRY NEWS

There are lots of changes happening within the Financial Sector at present, which could have a detrimental impact to thousands of people up and down the country. Provident have recently announced that they will be closing their doorstep lending business and Amigo Loans are facing insolvency due to rising compensation costs from mis-sold loans.

Recent statistics show that over 11 million people across the country have less than £100 in savings and that Croydon was found to be one of the most deprived boroughs in London. We also know that Croydon recently topped the table for Pay Day Lending in the UK.

We are extremely worried that many people are at risk of falling prey to Loan Sharks and we wanted to take this opportunity to remind our members that we are here to help!

We have teamed up with Just Borrow to provide a loan product that is quick and easy to apply for without the extortionate interest rates that can be charged by some Pay Day Lenders.



Simply visit www.justborrow.co.uk - 24/7 for a quick loan decision (Non-members only).

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS FALLEN PREY TO AN ILLEGAL MONEY LENDER, YOU CAN REPORT THIS TO STOP LOAN SHARKS BY CALLING 0300 555 2222 OR VISIT WWW.STOPLOANSHARKS.CO.UK.

STOP LOAN SHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education

AGM VIDEO

As we have mentioned previously, our Virtual AGM was a huge success! We were fortunate enough to have ABCUL supporting us with this and they have kindly provided us with a recording of the meeting, so that we can share it with our members. If you were unable to attend, but would still like to see how things went, you can now view this online at: <https://vimeo.com/556231029>

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We are pleased to inform our members of a new community initiative hosted at Hill House St. Helier, in partnership with Community Action Sutton and Sutton Community Works.

The St Helier Community Food Shop was launched in April at Hill House, Bishopsford Road Carshalton, SM4 6BL, and will run every Thursday and Friday 10 am–12 noon.

The food shop is a membership scheme that works by providing local residents with the ability to choose 12–15 food items a week (worth approximately £15) for the price of £3. The food will be provided by the Felix Project (a London-based food redistribution charity that collects high-quality and nutritious surplus food and redistributes it to community initiatives). Membership is for six months and can be cancelled at any time.

The main aims of the food shop are to help local people save money on food shopping bills and reduce food waste. Members are required to engage with services offering advice and support on education, training, employment, health and wellbeing, and financial resilience. Residents can sign up for membership by completing this form bit.ly/StHelierFoodShop or calling 020 8915 2000

GET IN TOUCH

Website: www.croydonplus.co.uk

General Enquiries Email: cu-info@croydonplus.co.uk

Loan Enquiries Email: loans@croydonplus.co.uk

Credit Control Email: cu-creditcontrol@croydonplus.co.uk

Telephone: 020 8760 5711 / 020 3468 8568

Monday to Friday 10am - 3pm

VOLUNTEERING

As an organisation, we are extremely reliant upon the support that we receive from our Volunteers and Credit Union Directors.

If you have a set of skills that you feel would make a difference and you would like to offer us some of your time, please forward a copy of your CV to us at cu-info@croydonplus.co.uk

In addition, we would like to hear from anyone who is proficient in British Sign Language and would be able to visually interpret our Virtual (Live) AGM in March 2022.

LET'S GET SOCIAL



Follow @CroydonPlus for our latest updates!

Croydon, Merton & Sutton Credit Union Ltd

Registered Office: Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) & Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA)

