



Enterprise  
Credit Union

SPRING 2023

# NEWSLETTER



We're back with our first newsletter of 2023. As always, we've been super busy at Enterprise and have a lot of exciting news to share.

In this edition, you'll hear about Liam's graduation from ABCUL's CU Futures programme, we recap the last 6 months of 'Friends of Enterprise', and we speak to member Sophie Gibney, who tells us all about her life-changing trip to Africa. Plus, so much more...

## BOB CHAT GPT COMING SOON!!!

If you're wondering what 'GPT' means? It stands for 'Generative Pre-trained Transformer' which basically means Bob is now smarter than ever, and using internet data, he is capable of generating realistic human-like responses.

Not only is he highly intelligent, but he's also super creative too, so next time he pops up... ask him something like: "Tell me about Enterprise Credit Union as a rap verse!"



## LAST 6 MONTHS: FRIENDS OF ENTERPRISE LOTTERY



In November, we made some changes to our 'Friends of Enterprise' lottery – so more of our members had a chance of winning, and to give back to more community groups across Merseyside.

Now each month, there are 5 equal cash prizes up for grabs and 5 community groups receive an equal share of the donation pot.



Are you yet to get involved in our 'Friends of Enterprise' lottery? Enter now to be in with the chance of winning one of 5 cash prizes every month, and also give back to the community...

**Click here** to enter the next draw - you've got to be in it to win it!

Lewis presenting 'An Hour For Others' and 'Centre 63' with February & April's community donation.

Friends of Enterprise



37,794  
Entries



30 Community  
Donations



30 Prize  
Winners

Here's a recap of how some of the chosen community groups have used the donation:

In December, **YKids**, who received a donation of £738.30, let us know they'd be using the funds to support their youth and children's work provision, offering multiple weekly groups to promote self-esteem, well-being, positive mental health, various skills workshops, and fun activities for young people in Bootle.

**Bridge Community Centre**, chosen to receive a share of January's donation pot, used the £746.60 towards the refurb of their community centre, which they had been busy fundraising to complete.

In February, **An Hour For Others** used the £753.30 donation to help fund 3 fun activity days over the half-term, where they provided food and drink, and support to 40 children aged 8-14.



Most recent was **Centre 63** in Kirkby, who received a donation of £774.70 from April's pot, and will use the funds to provide food during youth club sessions and the school holidays...

## DID YOU KNOW THERE COULD BE BENEFITS YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON?

An estimated £16+ billion worth of benefits go unclaimed in the UK each year, which could provide a lifeline for many struggling with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Are you accessing everything you're entitled to? There could be benefits, grants and any other extra help from the government that you didn't know you could receive.

**We're here to help you find out...**

We are the first credit union to integrate the **'Inbest Benefits Calculator'** into our mobile app, making it easier than ever for you find out what financial support you could claim, and here's how...

**Step 1:** Open our mobile app and log in

**Step 2:** Click 'More' at the bottom of the screen

**Step 3:** Click 'Benefits Calculator'

**Step 4:** Complete the form to find out which benefits you could be entitled to.

Alternatively, if you don't have our mobile app, **click here** or click the **'Inbest'** logo below to complete the form online.

If you are facing financial difficulties, and you're worried about missing payments, remember, it's OK to ask for help.

Don't bury your head in the sand, talk to us - we're here to help.

**Click here** to speak to our team.



## ARE YOU FOLLOWING US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Find our social media channels below, and keep up with all the latest ECU news, products and updates...



## CU FUTURES: LIAM GRADUATES



Back in March, at the ABCUL Conference in Manchester, Liam Cartwright graduated from CU Futures, a year long personal, and professional development programme aimed at credit union professionals up the age of 35, to attract and retain talent within the sector, and train and support the next generation of leaders.



Liam has worked for ECU for just shy of 2 years, joining our team as a Member Services Officer in May 2021. Since then, Liam has put himself forward for many opportunities, with the most recent being CU Futures, which he says was a fantastic opportunity for him build on his skills and knowledge in the sector.

The programme started in May 2022, with Liam taking part in a range of activities, including modules in finance and governance, attending board meetings, taking part in exchanges with other credit unions, networking,

completing the online academy, presentation, and media training, leading on to the last module of the programme, presenting the final project to a panel of judges.

### What did you get up to during the programme?

The programme was a combination of online sessions, and some in-person due to being cautious over COVID. In the first session we created a self-development blueprint, that we would look back on and see how far we have come personally at the end of the programme.

Our first face-to-face meeting was in London, where we met Liz Barclay. Liz delivered an amazing presentation workshop, where she gave us many tips on how to look and sound confident when presenting, this advice was invaluable and was really beneficial when it came to the final project.

### How was it to graduate at the ABCUL conference?

Once we had presented the final project, I could finally relax and look forward to the graduation ceremony. The atmosphere in the room was amazing, to hear all those cheers when we were on stage receiving our certificates was fantastic, and to have my ECU team and family members in attendance, cheering me on, it's something I'll never forget.

### What advice would you give someone considering taking part in the CU Futures programme?

I would really encourage any young professional thinking of taking part in CU Futures to just go for it! My knowledge of the CU sector and finance has more than doubled. It's an amazing opportunity and it can be challenging, but it's so worthwhile.



CU Futures Class of 2023 graduating at the ABCUL Conference, March 2023.

Congratulations on this incredible achievement Liam, we knew you could do it and couldn't be more proud, well done!



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SOPHIE'S AFRICAN ADVENTURE

We helped sponsor member, Sophie Gibney's trip to Kenya, to spend 10-days delivering vital social action work and make a life-changing difference to those who need it most.

Sophie is 24 and works in a special education setting in Liverpool teaching a Year 11 class and has volunteered at Everton in the Community (EitC), the official charity of Everton FC since she was 17, and is now close to reaching her 300 voluntary hour mark.

The trip to Kenya was originally planned for April 2020, however due to the impact of COVID-19, it was postponed and later rescheduled for April 2023.

EitC had previously visited West End Destiny Academy in 2018, a primary school located on the outskirts of Nakuru, Kenya, that provides free education to students aged 3-14 who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and returned earlier in April to help build a new classroom, and donate supplies to the school, such as stationary, hygiene products and medical equipment.

The trip was organised by Katie Bramhall & Stacey McMahon, volunteer coordinators at EitC, and was booked through African Adventures – a unique travel company that specialise in providing life-changing trips and are partnered with over 20 schools in developing areas of Ghana, Kenya, and Zanzibar.

Now she's back from Africa, we caught up with Sophie to hear all about it, [click here](#) to read on.

## LYNN IS JETTING OFF TO MEMPHIS FOR INCLUSIV 2023!

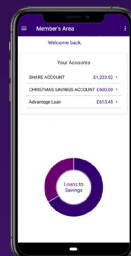


Next week, our Head of Community & Development, Lynn Farrell will be flying across the pond to Memphis, Tennessee to represent ECU at the Inclusiv Conference 2023, the largest annual gathering of CUs with a mission of financial inclusion in USA.

Lynn's trip fits in with our upcoming plans to become a Community Development Credit Union (CDCU) and we can't wait to hear all about it!



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