



## Still time to get your Christmas Loan

Closing date extended to December 8th

Didn't remember to open a Christmas Saver Account with Hoot?  
Wondering how you will afford Christmas this year?  
Then there is still time to apply for a Hoot Christmas Loan

- No set up fee
- No late payment charges
- No early repayment costs
- Free life insurance on the loan\*

### Representative Example £500 loan

#### Hoot Handy Loan

52 weekly payments of £11.50 , Cost of Credit £97.00  
APR 42.6% Total Repaid £597.00

Compare that to

#### Provident Personal Credit

52 weekly payments of £17.50, Cost of Credit £410.00  
APR 272.2% Total Repaid £910.00

That's a saving of over £300!

Apply online

[www.wisewithmoney.org.uk](http://www.wisewithmoney.org.uk)



Not only do you save money with a Hoot loan but, if you paid the difference in the repayment of £6 into a Hoot Christmas savings account, at the end of the year you will have repaid your loan and have **£312 in savings to pay towards the next Christmas!**



## Hoot members are Xmassavingstastic!

This year Hoot members have saved a magnificent **£47,963 in Christmas savings.**

*"I love saving.. for Christmas...It has taken the worry out of Christmas.. wondering if you have enough.. best thing i ever did was join Hoot Christmas saving"* Susan, Hoot member.

Congratulations to our Christmas Savings Draw winners:  
£50 winner Catherine Langan  
£30 winner Susan Walton  
£20 winner Valerie Owens

Don't forget, it's never too early to start saving for next Christmas.

### THANK YOU

for helping us to support the Macmillan Cancer Campaign on International Credit Union Day.

We raised £125.00



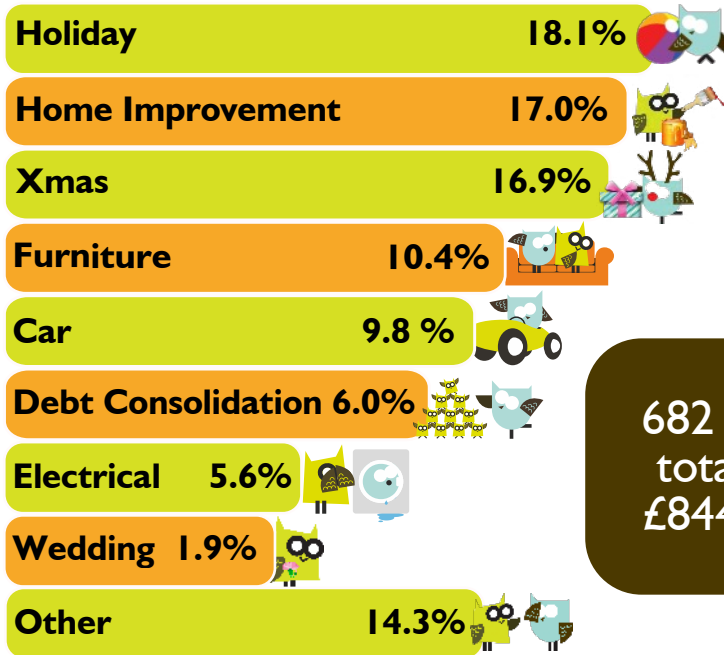
\* Subject to limits and age restrictions. Loan amount and interest rate is subject to affordability and eligibility. Late repayment of loans can cause you serious money problems. You should only take out a loan if you are comfortable you can afford the loan and can repay on time. Successful applicants are expected to save with Hoot whilst repaying their loan. Top up loan rules apply.

# Highlights from last financial year

Did you know that the credit union year runs from 1 October to 30 September? Our financial accounts are in the process of audit and will be available to members at our AGM early in 2018. Here are some of our achievements in the past year.



Average savings up from £391 to £451



**682 loans** totalling **£844,290**

## Managing your Hoot account

Over the next three months we will be changing the way we manage savings accounts so that you are able to see more easily what savings you have and how much is available for you to withdraw.

In your Hoot account you will have the option of four savings pots:

**Instant Access** - withdraw what you want, when you want.

**Loan Secured** - arranged savings available according to your loan agreement.

**Nest Egg** - agree your savings goal and start saving. Savings available whenever you want.

**Christmas Saver** - your Christmas savings pot available to withdraw each November.

We will write to you when we have set up your savings pots so you will be able to see more clearly what savings are available and when.

If you want to set up a Nest Egg or Christmas Saver pot simply contact us for more details.



### Are your details up to date?

We want to make sure that we have the most up to date contact details so that we can keep you up to date with your account.

Contact us on 01204 365024 or [enquiries@wisewithmoney.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wisewithmoney.org.uk) or go to our Contact page on [www.wisewithmoney.org.uk](http://www.wisewithmoney.org.uk) or call in our Town Centre branch to tell us if something has changed.

**Check your details by December 14<sup>th</sup> and you could win a £25 savings bonus.**

**Have you registered into the Member's Area yet?**

**REGISTER FOR ONLINE**

Over 1,000 Hoot members are already using the Members' Area to check their savings and loan balances online, request money transfers and apply for a loan.

You can log in at any time, night or day and see how your savings pot is growing, or how much your loan balance is reducing!

Go to [www.wisewithmoney.org.uk](http://www.wisewithmoney.org.uk) and select the Register button at the top of the home page.

**Did you know that you can text for your Hoot balance?**

Simply register your mobile phone number with us by calling 01204 365024 and once registered you can get your balance.



# Don't get conned this Christmas

Online shopping is a huge part of the build up to Christmas, and it's a busy time for fraudsters too! Here are some easy to follow safety tips to help protect you from getting caught out this Christmas.

## Is the website real?

Make sure that the web address has been entered correctly as some fake sites change one or two letters in the hope you won't notice.

Then check that the shopping website you're on is authentic and the payment page is secure.

You can do this by checking that the address starts with 'https' ('s' is for secure) and there's a closed padlock in the address bar.

## Take care with emails, posts and texts

Watch out for emails or texts from parcel delivery firms telling you to open an attachment for your delivery note.

A real delivery firm wouldn't send you that.

Also, unexpected emails, texts or posts urging you to click on a link for any reason should be treated with caution.

If in doubt - delete! If it's genuine they'll contact you again.



## What's your password?

Many people are guilty of using the same password for all their online accounts so they can't forget it and be locked out. This is risky should a hacker manage to access one of your accounts as they would then have access to all.

Use a combination of letters, numbers and symbols; or use a phrase or combination of random words.

### More useful advice at:

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)  
[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)  
[www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

## How are they asking you to pay?

If an online shop is asking you to pay by bank transfer, it's probably a scam. Don't pay for anything by transferring money directly to people or companies you don't know, however desperate you are to buy.

Pay using your debit or credit card or by payment facilities like Paypal; but make sure the site is secure (see left).

## Counterfeit or real?

Take care not to get duped into buying counterfeit products such as electrical goods, designer clothes, cosmetics or other items. Similarly, do not buy them intentionally, as they contravene copyright law, cost the livelihoods of workers who make the authentic versions and can be of poor quality, or dangerous.

Do all you can to ensure your purchases are authentic.



## Top tips to avoid a Christmas spending hangover

Christmas is a time for giving, but you don't want to start the New Year with a post-Christmas headache because you have overspent or racked up unmanageable debt. There are things you can do pre and post-Christmas that will reduce the chances of that debt hangover

**Stick to a plan** - Set your Christmas spending budget and stick to it. Temptation is hard to resist at Christmas but think – if you weren't going to spend the money before you saw the deal, don't spend it when you do. If you can afford to pay for your gifts straightaway by cash or debit card do so.

**If you are using credit check out all of your options** --Credit cards are convenient but can be expensive, so stick to one card and use it wisely (see below). Don't run up an overdraft unless it's prearranged or your bank will charge you a high rate of interest for it. Consider other options which may be cheaper in the long run, like taking out a small loan from a credit union.

**Use your credit card wisely** - Plan to pay off your Christmas credit card debt within 3 - 6 months if possible. Carrying a balance for too long can add 50% to everything you buy and leave you with less money to work with next year. Some credit cards provide purchase protection, which means when you buy something and it is stolen or lost within a set period of time, typically around 90 days, the credit card company will give you your money back. This might be useful if you are buying more expensive items.

**Stay on top of payments** - If you do borrow money, make sure you can afford the repayments without too much strain on your budget. After Christmas, shop around for affordable personal credit to consolidate credit cards and reduce outgoings.

**Start saving for next year** - Work out how much this Christmas has cost you and start saving in January to soften the blow next year.

## How do you manage your money?

Research has shown that many people are just about managing with their day to day finance and that most people do not have any savings buffer for life's little emergencies, special events or future plans.

Money worries are a major factor in stress and mental illness and can result in absence from work or loss of productivity.

Maybe now is the right time to think about saving. Go to our [website](#) or call us to start savings for your future.

59% of people struggle to keep up with bills

The average cost of Christmas is £753

41% of adults do not know their current account balance within £50

Less than 3 in 10 people have savings of 3 months income or more

On average we spend 2 month's wages on our main holiday

For good advice on how to manage your money better go to the **Money Advice Service**

[www.moneyadvice.org.uk](http://www.moneyadvice.org.uk)

## Win a Christmas Hamper



Go to our facebook page [www.facebook.com/hootcu](http://www.facebook.com/hootcu)

Comment, like and share this post by December 15 and you could win a Christmas Hamper!

## Christmas and New Year Opening

Friday	22 December 2017	9.30 am - 4.00 pm
Saturday	23 December 2017	CLOSED
Sunday	24 December 2017	CLOSED
Christmas Day	25 December 2017	CLOSED
Boxing Day	26 December 2017	CLOSED
Wednesday	27 December 2017	10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Thursday	28 December 2017	10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Friday	29 December 2017	10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Saturday	30 December 2017	CLOSED
Sunday	31 December 2017	CLOSED
New Year's Day	1 January 2018	CLOSED
Tuesday	02 January 2018	Normal Hours Resume

Please note that requests for transfer to bank or prepaid card should be made by 2.30pm on Friday 22 December

## Payments of Benefits over the Xmas period

These are the expected payment dates given on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for the Christmas and New Year period. Any payments received will be credited to your account only on the day we receive it. We cannot guarantee that your payment will be made by the DWP or HMRC and you should check with your benefit provider regarding your own payments.

Payment date	Child Benefit Expected date	Tax Credit Expected date	Universal Credit Expected Date
Dec 25	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 22
Dec 26	Dec 22	Dec 22	Dec 22
Dec 27	Dec 27	Dec 22	Dec 22
Dec 28	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 27
Jan 1	Dec 29	Dec 29	Dec 29
Jan 2	Jan 2	Dec 29	Dec 29
Jan 3	Jan 3	Jan 2	03 Jan 2017

**hoot**  
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Hoot Credit Union is Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. FRN 400120



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[www.wisewithmoney.org.uk](http://www.wisewithmoney.org.uk)



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