The **Best Year Ever** to be a Member (so far)...

**Free**

*More Prizes Handed Out!* - page 2  
*More Donations Given!* - pages 10, 11 & 12
The Best Year EVER To Be A Member!

We hope to make 2017 the best year ever to be a Chelmsford Star member, and it has certainly got off to a good start. Every week, we’ve handed over a **free bag of groceries** to a randomly selected member, plus there is the small matter of **£200 in vouchers** being given out each month! We’ve even more benefits coming soon too, with a wide range of discounted prices on the way to the till points. **Keep using your membership card each time** you shop with us for your chance to win!

Congratulations to our winners so far this year: Maria Crispin (Dagenham), Irene Wells (Stanford-le-Hope), Matthew Stuckbery (Leigh On Sea), Mrs Kemp (Hullbridge), Ms Herron (Beehive), Mr Prescott (Mountbatten), Mrs Smith (Danbury), Mr McIlroy (Havengore), Mrs Cuthbert (Woodford Green), Mr Altinar (Leigh On Sea), Mrs Smith (Broomfield), Mr Zipzer (Stanford-le-Hope)... More were being selected as we went to print.
It seems like no time at all since the Christmas decorations came down, but – lo and behold – it’s Easter already. How did that happen?

The passing of time has been at the forefront of our mind, here at Chelmsford Star Co-op, as we’ve been going through our archives researching the 150 years of work we’ve done in Essex. Much has changed since 1867, but one thing remains the same. Chelmsford Star has, and always will, exist solely for the benefit of our community, and this issue contains much of what we’ve done to demonstrate that over the last couple of months.

Chelmsford Star has been spontaneously rewarding its members with gifts since the start of 2017, and will continue to do so until the end of this milestone year. Without you, and without your patronage, we would be unable to do what we do. Thanks for being a part of something wonderful.

Kevin Bennett - Head of Membership & Marketing

A Personal Farewell

A big thank you from me to all members and colleagues; for your loyal support, your friendship and your respect for the past five years I’ve been your Society President. Having served nine years on the Board of Directors, I must now step down. In order to thrive, Chelmsford Star is continually on the look out for new members who are willing to step forward and provide guidance and support to the business. Interested (or know someone who would be)? Get in touch.

This is an exciting year to be a member and I plan to stay around to celebrate it with you all when and where I can. 150 years is certainly something to celebrate, and long may Chelmsford Star Co-op continue.

Pauline Dodd - President

What We’re Talking About This Month: Share of the Profits

It’s that time of the year again. Vouchers, discounts and free shopping are all well and good, but true ‘co-operative’ shoppers are always looking out for their annual “divi”. The share of our profits will be paid out on 9th May, following our AGM – which is when you’ll determine how much the points you have been accumulating will be worth.

The annual dividend has existed since we originally formed, rewarding shareholders with an equal portion of that year’s profits. It has always been £1 to buy a share (you paid it when you joined) which also grants a member the right to have a say in how we run things and to stand as a member nominated representative. Nowadays, this is small change, but back in 1867 most members had to pay it in instalments!
Local School Opens New Look Nevendon

Pupils from a Wickford school, Castledon, reopened our Nevendon Road store in February, following a brief closure to give it a major refurbishment. Changes included new ranges and – much to the delight of local shoppers – some automatic doors.

Castledon is one of hundreds of schools using our Community Cards to fund-raise. Mrs Tozer, from the ‘Friends of Castledon’ group said, “The pupils were so excited to do this, and I hope it will encourage more of our parents and carers to use the Community Cards to raise money for the school”.

Refits To Come...

Stores still to get a make-over this year include; Challis Lane, Ingatestone, Gallywood, Thundersley and West Road, Southend. Writtle was being refurbished as we went to print (see next issue, due July). For latest updates on these, including changes to opening hours, check our website or follow the Chelmsford Star Co-op facebook page.

Fairtrade Raises Funds

A number of hampers full of goodies were raffled off by our stores during Fairtrade Fortnight (27th February – 12th March), in order to raise funds for our Charity of the Year, KIDS Inspire. Thank you if you bought a ticket, as the hampers raised £880 across our stores.

Tilbury Hat-Trick

Another recent purchase, our new store in Portsea Road was opened with the help of local Community Group, the Tilbury Riverside Project. This is our third shop in Tilbury, which was previously linked to another Co-op. Annie O’Brien, from the Tilbury Riverside Project – a group supporting the economic, social and cultural regeneration of the area – hopes this means more support from local shoppers to her cause. To find out more about it, visit tilburyriverside.co.uk.

Chelmsford Star Invades Greater London

Our latest store, which we opened in February, is in Woodford Green – which was considered to be part of Essex until 1965 when it was absorbed into Greater London. The 7,100 square foot store is now our largest, knocking Danbury into second place. CEO, Barry Wood, said, “We are now actively looking for opportunities to build a special relationship with the surrounding community and its residents.”

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Easter Egg Indulgence Cake by Emma Mandy

Who needs Easter for an excuse to eat this cake? If reading this after 16th April, this decadent cheesecake will still go down an absolute treat.

Method:
1. Put the biscuits in a food bag and crush them with a rolling pin, then stir through the melted butter. Press the mixture into a loose-bottomed cake tin, then bake in a pre-heated oven for 10 minutes at 150°C to ensure a crisp base.
2. Beat the cream cheese, mix with the cream and sugar, then add the vanilla extract.
3. Using another food bag, crush the choc mini eggs before adding them to the cream cheese mixture. Mix well.
4. Pour mixture onto the base, turn the oven down to 120°C then cook for 70 minutes.
5. TIP: turn off the oven when there is still a slight wobble in the mixture. Leave it cooking in the cooling oven for another 60 minutes. This will prevent over-cooking.
6. Decorate the top of the cake; firstly with the melted chocolate, then pipe the cream, then arrange your remaining chocolate eggs on top. Et voila!

Ingredients

Biscuit Base:
- 300g the co-operative digestives
- 150g unsalted butter – melted

Cheesecake:
- 500g full fat cream cheese
- 100g icing sugar
- 300ml double cream
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 x 90g bags of choc mini eggs – crushed

Decoration:
- 150ml double cream
- 2 tbsp icing sugar, choc mini eggs
- 50g melted chocolate

Raising The Bar
It has been announced that co-ops will be the first UK retailers to use only fairtrade cocoa in all own-brand products, from the sprinkles on our doughnuts to the chocolate chips on our irresistible cookies. The news comes 15 years after co-ops became the first to launch their own 100% fairtrade own-brand chocolate bar. It is expected that the volume of fairtrade cocoa sourced to meet the requirements will increase by 500%, and will be included in over 200 co-op products.

Fairtrade Breakfast
To mark Fairtrade Fortnight, members of Chelmsford Star met with the Chelmsford Co-operative Party for a breakfast that consisted of an astounding 17 fairtrade ingredients. It goes to demonstrate Fairtrade doesn’t just mean bananas or chocolate - there are ethical options for every meal.

STOP PRESS: Keep an eye out in-stores for Chelmsford Star’s new Fairtrade chocolate bar - coming soon to the confectionary shelves!
New In!

Lovers of the grape discovered far-reaching health benefits from drinking wine when our Chelmsford branch held a Fairtrade Wine-Tasting in March. It was revealed that choosing fair-trade options when purchasing the odd bottle of vino could allow struggling communities overseas to build hospitals and schools, and better support themselves.

Owner of Essex Wine School, Neil Bull, took the audience – which included Chelmsford Mayor Patricia Hughes – through six types of wine stocked in our food stores, all Fairtrade, and well and truly busted the myth that these options were somehow inferior to their counterparts. Malcolm Wallace, from the Chelmsford City Fairtrade Campaign, also presented testimonials from farmers in Argentina and South Africa that demonstrated just how big a difference buying Fairtrade would make to them.

One attendee remarked, “They don’t cost any extra and taste gorgeous, so there is no reason people can’t support struggling families each time they buy a bottle!”

The Baines Cooper Collection

Coming to our stores soon, in celebration of our 150th year trading, is a range of furniture specially selected by us, for you, called the Baines Cooper Collection. Edward Baines Cooper was our first treasurer, back in 1867, who had an eye for quality and a knack to get the most for his budget. What better way to honour him than through a selection of premium pieces at reasonable prices.

Chelmsford has a series of ‘pop-up shops’ opening in April and May, which is something new to the store. Also Artisan jewellery, Royal Worcester in housewares and Brabantia in the cookshop.

Both stores now sell an exciting range of Duresta furniture - they make sofas for Buckingham Palace, don’t you know - and will soon be introducing a new selection of especially chosen pieces in the Baines Cooper Collection.

Wine Tasting Provides Health Benefits Overseas

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VIP Shoppers

Our third shopping evening, in March, offered additional discounts on Spring sale and non-sale items across Chelmsford Quadrant (plus a glass of wine to enjoy as you shopped), Volunteer models from our supported charity KIDS Inspire also provided a sneak peek into some of the new Spring Summer fashion ranges. If you’d like an invite to future evenings, contact us with your email address or – if you aren’t online – an address to post your invite to!
Membership Update

Coffee Mornings...
Future speakers include, but are not limited to:
**Braintree:** 10.30am every Thursday
13th April Cancer Research
18th May Citizens Advice
5th June Essex Search & Rescue
**Chelmsford:** 10.30am every Monday
10th April British Heart Foundation
24th April Chelmsford Community Radio
8th May The Donkey Sanctuary
25th May Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled

Speakers correct at time of going to print.

Fish ‘n’ Chip Quiz:
Come and enjoy a fun quiz in our restaurant, along with a fish and chip dinner, all for £3.99! Starts 11.30am
27th April Braintree
22nd May Chelmsford
29th June Braintree
(last approx 2 hours)

Got Any Old Books?
We’re holding a second hand Book Sale outside Chelmsford Quadrant, 10am – 4pm, to raise money for KIDS Inspire. If you have any old books you’d like us to collect from you, let us know!

Member Trips
1st June House of Parliament
Members £38pp
17th August Hastings Day Trip £22pp
Visit one of our travel teams today (and remember your membership card!) to reserve your space or phone 0800 2540404.

There are three levels to our governance, with a sliding scale of entry requirements, commitment levels and rewards. The starting tier is our Members’ Council, who meet 4 times year. All practical experience will be provided. To apply you must have;
• An interest in your community and in the co-operative
• Been a member for 6 months or longer
• Spent £100 with us in the last 6 months.

Whilst it is too late to stand this year (voting had started as we went to print), if this sounds of interest to you please let us know and we can provide full details ahead of next year’s process.

Fond Farewell!
Much loved by her colleagues and customers alike, Sue from Brambles restaurant in Chelmsford has retired. Sue came to Quadrant following the closure of Bolingbroke & Wenley, working in our then-new Applechex restaurant before staying with Brambles when they took over. She’ll be missed!

As a co-op member, you are entitled to have your say in how we run our business. Our next AGM is 8th May, so come along to Chelmsford Quadrant for an update. Details in-store.

Your local Co-operative update...
Travel Update

Destination of the month: Reykjavik

Chasing the Northern Lights in Iceland

Ever fancied a change from your ordinary beach holiday? Why not go to Europe’s most northerly capital city, Reykjavik, writes Membership’s Georgina Leather.

Iceland is a volcanic island, 300km east of Greenland and just south of the Arctic Circle. The island is beautiful, and there is so much to see. Whether you’re into volcanoes, hot springs, waterfalls or glaciers, this country will have something for you. I have listed my favourite excursions below. Although there are guided tours for these trips, they can all be seen by hiring a car too.

My top 5 excursions:
- Blue Lagoon
- Northern Lights (September – April)
- Golden Circle Tour
- Whale Watching (April – October)
- Icelandic Horse Riding

Reykjavik is the perfect base to explore Iceland, being under an hour away from Keflavik airport. It’s a coastal city, with lots to see and do. Don’t miss the Volcano House museum, Tjornin Pond and the Laugardalslaug outdoor pool, which is naturally heated with geothermal energy. There are plenty of restaurants and bars in the city. Don’t forget to pack your thermals!

2nd-6th November
3 star hotel
£963.19 for 2
Contact branch for full details. Price correct at the time of print.

Follow Cooper’s adventures on Facebook (Cooper – Chelmsford Star). Would you like to take him with you on your next trip? If so, get in touch!

Freephone 0800 254 0404
Funeral Update

Plan Ahead & Save Thousands

There is only one guarantee in life, and that's that it won't last forever. People may not want to think about it, but setting up a pre-payment funeral plan will save your family a lot of money, as well as avoiding unnecessary stress at a time when they'll be at their lowest.

Funeral costs have more than doubled in the last 10 years, and will only get higher. Investing in a plan now will fix the cost and guarantee it will be inflation-proof, and what's more you can spread the cost with low monthly instalments. The sooner you begin, the lower the cost will be – no matter how much prices increase over the rest of your lifetime.

To mark our 150th anniversary, we are knocking £150 off any funeral plan purchased this year. Costs will never be this low again. You’ll find your voucher on page 13.

Support Groups

Our numerous bereavement and aftercare support groups have had a number of organised outings and gatherings recently. There were several Christmas dinners arranged, and members from the Chelmsford, Braintree and Ingatestone groups also spent a day out in Bury St Edmunds. Following a trip to the cathedral, there was plenty of time to shop!

If you - or someone you know - recently lost a loved one and feel you may benefit from some spending time with people going through a similar situation, our meetings are open to all and free.

Braintree: Christ Church, London Road. Tuesdays 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Chelmsford: The Link, Rainsford Road. Thursdays 10.30am - 12.30pm
Ingatestone: Parish Room, Stock Lane. 1st Tuesday of the month 10am - 12pm
Writtle: The Village Hall, The Green. 1st Thursday of the month 2pm - 4pm

Alternatively, contact us to arrange free 1-2-1 grief counselling.
Funeral Helpline: 0800 0284808. We’re available 24/7 if you need us.

Out & About

If popping into one of our funeral homes is a bit scary, you can meet our team in Meadows Shopping Centre, Chelmsford during the summer for a more casual chat, and to have your questions answered.

You will find them there on;
Thursday 4th May
Thursday 8th June
Thursday 13th July
Thursday 3rd August
(Dates correct at time of print)
Massive Congrats to the Chelmsford Star running team, who each ran 13.1 miles and raised a huge £1600, which will go in our pot for KIDS Inspire.

Fastest male in our team was James Bearham, Beehive Lane food store manager, completing the course in 1 hour 35 minutes. Fastest female was Emily Smith, Marketing Co-ordinator, in 1 hour 39 minutes. Meanwhile, our very own Cooper Bear managed an impressive 2 hours 20 mins, with runner Ian Brazier winning an award for ‘Best Outfit’ into the bargain. Very well done to all the team who put in such a huge amount of effort, and thanks to all who sponsored them.

Cooper & Co Cover 13 Miles

Chelmsford Communities On Your Dial

Congratulations to our friends at Chelmsford Community Radio who are now on the FM airwaves!

One of our Community Groups, Chelmsford Community Radio (CCR) helped us with our radio tour a few years ago. In the time since they’ve developed a keen listener-base across the world via internet radio. The station features presenters from all works of life, covering all sorts of subjects, and provides regular on-air training to schools and charities too. Their FM reach covers all of Chelmsford, but stretches out further in all directions. Catch them on 104.4FM next time you are in the car and give them a listen!
Donations Aplenty
Raffle prizes and donations to Baddow Spartak FC...

Quiz night hamper to Chelmsford Community Radio (the winners were very pleased)...

Group Support
Of course, we’d much rather help a community group grow – rather than just hand over donations – which is why we held our third ‘Grow Your Group’ event in January. Representatives from over 50 charities and community organisations came to hear free, practical advice from experts in social media, press releases, funding and on-air publicity. Chelmsford Mayor, Patricia Hughes (pictured above with our key-speakers), had some very nice things to say about our efforts and initiatives within Essex. If you missed out, don’t worry. We have another scheduled for the end of the year. Keep an eye out on our social media for dates – and if there is some particular advice you would like to hear about, get in touch now!

Danbury Go Bananas!
Our store in Danbury ordered too many Fairtrade bananas, so did what all responsible and ethical retailers would do… Gave them all to the local Primary School! Danbury Park were the lucky recipients of over 100 free bananas, much to the young pupils’ delight. A teacher from the school commented, “What a special treat, thank you! And now the children know about the importance of Fairtrade too!”
Youth Update

Pupils Come Out In Support
Thank you to the pupils of Castledon School in Wickford, who came out to help launch our Nevendon Road store. If you know the school, you’ll know how fantastic they are – and that they need all the support they can get. If you’d like one of their community cards, enabling you to raise money for them each time you shop, let us know.

Benefitting Youngsters
Over 100 schools across Essex are a part of our Community Card initiative, and one recent beneficiary was St John’s Primary School in Danbury. Teachers and parents used funds from their last payout to build a series of raised gardens for pupils to grow their own vegetables. They’ll use them to hold their first potato growing competition, and will use them to enhance children’s understanding of where food comes from. Great to hear the money being put to good use!

If you want to find out more about our Community Card scheme, get in touch.

Cheques Away!
Yet to decide how to spend their funds are the group at North Avenue Youth Centre, who received a healthy cheque from their community card funds earlier this year.

Young Commissioners
Do you know a bright youngster (or are you one?), between 13 and 19, who would be interested in having real influence over decisions being made in Essex? We’re working with Essex County Council on a new Essex Young Commissioners programme, which will enable youngsters control over sizable funds to spend on projects that affect them. Want to know more? Get in touch.

Did You Know:
33p in every £1 spent in our stores is reinvested into Essex?
Savings for Members

The co-operative food

This voucher entitles our members to...

£1 off
a £10 spend

Membership No. 633174

Only one coupon per purchase. Excludes PayPoint, mobile top-ups, postage stamps, SIM cards, fuel, cigarettes, tobacco, lottery and baby milk formula.

Voucher valid until 31st July 2017
Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

£50 off
any item of furniture, beds or carpets purchased

Membership No. 633174

Minimum spend £500. Not in conjunction with any other offer. On new orders only.

Voucher valid until 31st July 2017
Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

The co-operative travel

This voucher entitles our members to...

£30 off
your next holiday (over £500)

Membership No. 633174

New bookings only, one per customer. Not in conjunction with any other offer.

Voucher valid until 31st July 2017
Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

£150 off
any Funeral Plan purchased

Membership No. 633174

Not in conjunction with any other offer.

Voucher valid until 31st July 2017
Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

Your local Co-operative update...
Address list

‘quadrant’ department stores:
220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0LS | 01245 490101
George Yard, 9/15 Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 2QA | 01376 321303

The co-operative food stores:
40 Duke Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1JA | 01245 345490
164 - 170 Meadgate Avenue, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7LJ | 01245 354759
372 - 376 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9RA | 01245 493900
83 Barnard Road, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8RS | 01245 474591
Beehive Lane, Westbourne Grove, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9RP | 01245 357649
156 Gloucester Avenue, Moulsham Lodge, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9LG | 01245 258089
15 Havengore, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6J P | 01245 262923
14 - 15 Torquay Road, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6NF | 01245 347868
108 Kings Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2BB | 01245 353630
47 - 49 Main Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 7BU | 01245 440316
Trent Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2LQ | 01245 258585
26 Melbourne Parade, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2DW | 01245 347774
17 Bridge Street, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3EY | 01245 421148
78 - 82 Forest Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2TS | 01245 258855
3 - 5 Spreadeagle Place, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9EA | 01277 351214
1 Fingrith Hall Road, Blackmore, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9RU | 01277 822231
62 - 64 Woodland Avenue, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1HR | 01277 228042
16 Main Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4NQ | 01245 227733
35/39 Masefield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1AA | 01376 348083
62 Church Street, Bocking, Braintree, Essex CM7 5JY | 01376 326516
174 - 176 Cressing Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3PL | 01376 320952
203 - 205 Mountbatten Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 9UL | 01376 334479
1 Panners Parade, Priory Lane, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex CM7 7AE | 01376 336444
115 - 117 Ferry Road, Hullbridge, Essex SS5 6ET | 01702 232388
216 Main Road, Hawkwell, Hockley, Essex SS5 4EG | 01702 204939
7 - 8 St. Peter’s Terrace, Wickford, Essex SS5 6QJ | 01268 768833
157 - 159 Nevendon Road, Wickford, Essex SS5 10Y | 01268 766999
493 - 495 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS5 1PH | 01702 461550
85 - 87 West Road, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 9QN | 01702 290679
159 Church Road, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 4EN | 01268 753908
173 - 175 Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS5 0J D | 01268 693004
12 Pauls Court, Meppel Avenue, Canvey Island, Essex SS5 9RZ | 01268 690092
12 Stanford Place, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury, Essex RM18 8YP | 01375 857786
14 - 16 Calcutta Road, Tilbury, Essex RM18 7QJ | 01375 843401
3 - 4 Canterbury Parade, South Road, South Ockendon, Essex RM15 6NH | 01708 852488
105 - 105C Mungo Park Road, Rainham, Essex RM13 7PP | 01708 520984
The Sorrells, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex SS7 17Z D | 01375 642129
1663 London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS5 2HS | 01702 716362
265 - 267 Wimnill Road, Wood Lane, Dagenham, Essex RM8 3NH | 020 8517 1036
109 Snakes Lane West, Woodford, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0DY | 020 8504 0594
2 - 6 Portsea Road, Tilbury, Essex RM18 8AX | 01375 844738

Off licence:
210 Main Road, Hawkwell, Hockley, Essex SS5 4EG | 01702 207577

Funeral Services:
78 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1SS | 01245 353978
348 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9RA | 01245 268993
151 - 153 Bridge Street, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex CM7 9RA | 01245 493900
(corner of Beehive Lane)
60 The Green, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3DU | 01245 422622
57A Main Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4NG | 01245 221444
6 Clare Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 2PA | 01376 551951
47 High Street, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9DU | 01277 350980
10 J utland House, White Hart Way, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1WX | 01371 875542

The co-operative travel branches:
‘quadrant’, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0LS | 01245 490290
‘quadrant’, George Yard, 9/15 Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 2QA | 01376 551444

Chelmsford Star – the Co-operative
at the heart of our community
Since 1867

Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited
220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex.
Registered Number: 973R, Essex.
email: members@chelmsfordstar.coop
www.chelmsfordstar.coop
We asked our membership team what their most frequently asked questions were...

**Question**  
Q. I have been into my local store and they’ve told me I have points on my card. Why am I unable to spend them?  
**Answer** You will accumulate points on the majority of purchases with the Society. We will then convert your points into a share of the profits to spend after our AGM. The AGM is usually in April or May.

**Question**  
Q. I have a share of the profits on my card but I am unable to spend it.  
**Answer** If you have more than one card, it could be that you are using a secondary card. You are only able to redeem your share of the profits by using your ‘master’ membership card. If you cannot locate your master membership card, please get in touch.

**Question**  
Q. How can I get involved in the AGM?  
**Answer** All Chelmsford Star members are invited to attend the Society’s AGM. Just bring your membership card along with you. You can hear about how the Society is doing, and have your say.

**Question**  
Q. Do I have to spend my share of the profits straight away?  
**Answer** No, providing your membership card remains active, you can spend your share of the profits whenever you choose to.

**Question**  
Q. Why do you need to see legal documents to change the name on my membership card?  
**Answer** As you are a shareholder and your card holds a share of the profits, we need to see the relevant paperwork in order to amend a name.

**Question**  
Q. Why do I have to pay £1 when I join? My other cards didn’t cost me anything.  
**Answer** Many other cards are loyalty cards. Chelmsford Star Co-op members are shareholders of the Society, so the £1 that you pay is the cost of your share. You’re then eligible to receive an annual share of the profits.

**Question**  
Q. How much are my points worth?  
**Answer** Rather than rewarding you for your loyalty, Chelmsford Star pays you a share of its profits. The amount can vary each year, and the value will be decided at the AGM.

**Question**  
Q. Do I have to spend my share of the profits in one go?  
**Answer** No, you can choose to spend it however you wish. You can spend part of it or all of it; it’s entirely up to you.

**Question**  
Q. I’m not sure if you have my current contact details as I don’t receive much from you.  
**Answer** As a small Society, we don’t often mail out to our members. We tend to send more e-mails, so please get in touch if you’d like to provide or update your email address.

**Question**  
Q. My husband wants to become a member, what’s the best way for him to do this?  
**Answer** Your husband can pick up an application form in store, or can apply online by visiting our website: www.chelmsfordstar.coop. Alternatively, your husband can have a secondary card for your account if you’d prefer to keep all the points together.

**Question**  
Q. How much are my points worth?  
**Answer** Rather than rewarding you for your loyalty, Chelmsford Star pays you a share of its profits. The amount can vary each year, and the value will be decided at the AGM.

Got a question? Call us for free on 0800 2540404

The **co-operative** membership

Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

Your local **Co-operative** update...
We’re celebrating our 150th anniversary with an exhibition in Chelmsford Museum this summer, and have some fantastic photo memories ready to show off, but we’re always on the look out for more. Can you help? Have you a unique memory of Chelmsford Star, or one of its businesses, from times gone by? Perhaps you worked for the Society? Do you have any photographs or memorabilia that would be of interest to others? If so, please call us on 0800 2540404 as we would love to hear from you!