Support your good cause with the COMMUNITY CARD

How much can it raise for your good cause?

Chelmsford Star - the Co-operative at the heart of Essex

PLUS:
Win a Trip To New York!

Page 8
2018: A New Chapter

As we prepare to leave our 150th year behind (it doesn’t technically end until our AGM in May), Chelmsford Star enters a new chapter. With competition higher than ever, the coming year is likely to be a tough one, but we’ll continue to promote our ‘co-op difference’ by always putting people before profit.

As we say goodbye to our milestone year, what have you – our members – taken from our celebrations?

“It’s brought back so many wonderful memories... my old co-op milkman, my mother’s divi number, my late-husband having his suits made. I could go on!”
– Margaret Cox

“What a fabulous museum exhibition, enjoyed by many visitors.”
– Mayor of Chelmsford

“We’ve really enjoyed all the old photographs. Very interesting looking back through the years.”
– The Chapmans

“A visit to your pop-up exhibition has been very inspiring. In fact, I think I’m going to become a shareholder to encourage this very useful work.”
– Dustin Oyeleye

“A very impressive story about the growing of a shop. I have been purchasing things not knowing how wonderful it is! It shows a firm can help society get together and work for a certain aim.”
– Eva-Maria Williams-Larent (Germany)

“Fascinating book, brilliantly showing the development of the movement and its progress through the years – a real benefit to all!”
– Elizabeth Buckle (Australia)

Member of the Month

With 2017 at an end, so too ends our 400% bigger Member of the Month draw – but don’t worry, we’ll still have one every month. Here are some of our latest winners…
Happy New Year!

It doesn’t seem two minutes since we entered our milestone 150th anniversary year, and here we are saying goodbye to it. It’s going out with a bang, however, with our travel and quadrant teams joining forces with the most popular radio station in the region, Heart FM, to give away a holiday for two to New York. Best be quick though, as the competition will be all over in early February so listen out for us on the airwaves.

In this issue, you’ll also find news on our stores’ fundraising efforts, the return of our Doorstep Challenge, and the events coming your way.

Kevin Bennett - Head of Membership & Marketing

What You’re All Talking About...

The Quadrant Videos

It may not be up there with the £billion campaigns of the national chains, but Quadrant quietly released several online videos recently, including a Christmas themed glimpse at what our stores were offering in December. It is hoped these glimpses at our stores, available on our Facebook and YouTube page, will show off the high standards and quality of ranges that non-visitors may not realise we offer. Have you seen them yet?

Let us know what you think!

Marc from videographers, Kid Genius Creative filming in-store

2018 Calendar

Our ‘Wonderful Essex’ calendar reduces from January to £2 (or £3 for non-members). It still includes well over £300’s worth of vouchers to be used across the year, and is on sale in our food and quadrant stores. With all profits going to Little Havens, and full of stunning photos of Essex taken by you, now is a great time to grab a bargain!

Your local Co-operative update...
Food News

Raffle Winners...

Canvey: Our Long Road store raffled off a special Halloween hamper in October. Congratulations to the winner!

Danbury: One of the main ticket sellers for the popular local fireworks display, our Danbury branch gave away two tickets to one lucky winner in November.

Galleywood: Hampers galore from our team on Barnard Road, with raffle prizes donated to the two local schools. There was also talk of sponsoring the parishioners Christmas lunch as we went to print!

Shoeburyness: Our latest store to get a major refurbishment, our West Road store now also sells Dunkin Donuts, Rollover hotdogs, Starslush frozen drinks and Tchibo coffee. The Southend Foodbank helped us to re-launch the new look store in November.

Rainham: One of our latest Big Grocery Giveaway winners, Mrs Holeyman received a free basket of shopping from her Mungo Park Road store.

Springfield: Wendy from our Havengore store ran the Chelmsford Marathon recently, raising money for Little Havens. She did amazingly well, raising over £1,500, but says “never again!” She completed the marathon in 4 hours 37 minutes. Well done Wendy!

New local products...

We can personally recommend Fairfield Farm’s new heat & eat crisps, available in all food stores. Cotchel drinks are available in selected stores, and are made from fruit which is too small, too big or too ugly to be sold.

Facebook: /chelmsfordstarcoop
Food Update

Snow Bite Brownies

These festive treats will work just as well in the New Year, and are easy to make and delicious! Thanks to Emily Smith for providing the recipe.

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 190c (or 170c fan). Lightly grease and greaseproof paper line a square cake tin.
2. Melt the butter and dark chocolate together in a saucepan over a gentle heat, stirring until smooth. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.
3. Whisk together the eggs and sugar in a bowl. Whisk constantly until double in volume and mixture leaves a trail. Fold in the flour and cocoa powder until well combined. Then fold in the melted chocolate mixture until well combined. Add the Snow Bites.
4. Pour into the cake tin, spreading evenly. Bake for 25-30 mins, until top is firm. Remove from heat and allow to cool completely, ideally in the fridge over night.
5. Cut into squares and enjoy!

Ingredients

- 150g butter (softened)
- 150g co-operative dark chocolate (broken into pieces)
- 60g plain flour (sifted)
- 25g cocoa powder (sifted)
- 2 medium eggs
- 200g caster sugar
- 2 bags of Snow Bites. (You can substitute the Snow Bites with your favourite chocolate to adapt the recipe to suit any time of the year.)

Keeping Elfy

Our stores have been giving out giant elves left and right as part of some Little Havens fundraising with nearly £4000 raised. Thanks to everyone that bought a ticket! Some of our winners below.

Fancy Dressed!

Our teams have enjoyed a good old dress up over recent months, all in aid of a good cause of course. Christmas jumpers were still on the cards as we went to press, so here’s a few spooktakular outfits from Halloween! Extra marks go to our Blackmore and Danbury teams for making a fangtastic effort.
All shopped out
Our Chelmsford Quadrant store opened for a festive fund-raising shopping evening this November, with some great deals available plus double points for all members.

As well as some very happy shoppers, we also raised nearly £400 for Little Havens!

New In...
More great names have arrived instore…
Outfit Kids (Braintree), Izabel (ladieswear in Braintree), Brave Soul (mens in Braintree), Soya Concept (ladies Chelmsford), Barbour (ladieswear in Chelmsford), Kangol (handbags in Chelmsford), and Bessie (handbags in Chelmsford).

Action!
Quadrant customers and colleagues were most excited when a film crew arrived in Chelmsford to put together some online video of the store. Search ‘chelmsford department store’ on YouTube to see our flagship store in all its glory!

Braintree Bonus
Our Braintree store celebrated with a double-points shopping day of their own, in November. For details of our next double-point promotions, in any of our stores, make sure you follow Chelmsford Star Co-op on Facebook.

COMING SOON! Look out for news of our Fairtrade Evening, to be held in the Chelmsford store in late February! Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date.

And he’s off...
Fairwell to Keith Goodchild, our Warehouse Manager, who has retired after over 40 years service.
Membership Update

Coffee Mornings...
Future speakers include, but are not limited to:
Braintree: 10.30am every Thursday
25th Jan. - Energetix Magnetics
8th Feb. - The Cinnamon Trust
22nd Mar. - Citizens Advice
— Best energy deal

Chelmsford: 10.30am every Monday
8th Jan. - Essex Police Museum
12th Feb. - Inspired Health Chiropractic
5th Mar. - Naturopathic Nutritionist
Speakers correct at time of print.
Check our website for a full speaker itinerary.

Fish ‘n’ Chip Quiz:
Come and enjoy a general knowledge quiz at Brambles restaurant, along with fish & chips for lunch for only £3.99.
Approx 11.30am – 1.30pm.
Mon 22nd Jan. - Chelmsford
Thurs 22nd Feb. - Braintree

Day Out
Our members’ trip to the Houses of Parliament was a sell out. We collected members from both Chelmsford & Braintree, and an interesting time was had by all. Anywhere you’ve always fancied going, within a few hours of Essex? Let us know, and maybe we’ll arrange a trip there in 2018!

Get Involved!
Ever wondered how we decide what community groups to help, and how much to give them? Curious as to the running of your local co-op, or keen to support and assist its growth? Chelmsford Star is guided by our members, so why not consider putting yourself forward to represent people like you, and have your voice heard. Get in touch for more information, and help us be the best co-op we can be.

Festive Fun
Our coffee morning members enjoyed a festive Christmas lunch in Quadrant’s 2 Brambles restaurants in December.

Check out the Christmas jumpers!

Dates for your diary 2018

Mid-January  Our ‘Win A Holiday’ competition starts on Heart FM
28th Feb  Fairtrade Evening (TBC)
Mid-March  Deadline to stand as elected member
14th May  AGM
15th May  Dividend Payout

Your local Co-operative update...
Travel News

Destination of the season...

Rome

Our Membership Co-ordinator, Georgina Leather, recently visited Rome, Italy. Just 2 hours flight from London, it’s the perfect location for a long weekend.

Georgina writes: There is so much to see, including 2000 years of fascinating history, but a 3-4 night stay is perfect. Make sure you take a camera as you’ll have the opportunity to get stunning photos that you wouldn’t capture anywhere else.

The highlights of my trip included:
• Colosseum & Roman Forum
• Vatican Museum & St Peters Basilica
• Trevi Fountain
• Castel Sant Angelo
• Pantheon

We stayed just outside the Vatican Museum, which was an ideal location and had great Metro links into the city centre. October was the perfect time to visit, with temperatures cooler at about 25 degrees. I would recommend booking on to a guided tour for my first two highlights, as queues can be very long, and it’s great to hear all the information about what you’re seeing. They advise that you cover your shoulders and knees when visiting the Vatican, so go prepared.

You’ll do so much walking that you won’t even feel guilty about all the pizza you ate!

2 adults for 3 nights at the boutique Hotel Trevi £637.50

Includes flights, shuttles, accommodation and breakfast. Prices correct at time of print.

Follow Cooper’s adventures on Facebook (Cooper – Chelmsford Star). Looking for a small companion on your next trip? Get in touch and we’ll check Cooper’s diary!

310x578

This month, he’s been to Canada with our Chelmsford travel manager, Matthew Griffiths.

Win A Trip For 2 To New York!

Stroll Central Park! Scale Empire State building! See the Statue of Liberty!

Start spreading the news...

in January, our Travel and Quadrant teams are joining forces with Heart FM to offer one lucky listener a FREE holiday for 2 to New York! Keep an ear out on Martin and Su’s Breakfast Show from mid-January, and you can apply to enter on the HEART FM website. For full T&Cs, get in touch. Good luck!
A Successful Facelift

The verdict is back on our new look, and the results are good. Overwhelmingly, members are praising the local feel and bright colours of our redesign. People are even recognising the global co-operative logo we’ve adopted, having seen it on holidays abroad!

New Premises

November saw the opening of our 8th funeral directors, in the middle of George Yard shopping centre. The prime location will be ideal for busy people struggling to fit appointments around work as it will also be open Saturdays. The site was opened by our Society President Sue Sullivan before being blessed by local Reverend Rod Reid.

Christmas Trees

Many local churches hold Christmas Tree Festivals in the run up to The Big Day, and ask local businesses to get involved by supplying their own. Our Writtle and Danbury branches put together these two beauties, which proved popular during the recent services.

Pam Retirement

After 27 years of dedicated service, Pam Goldberger, our Braintree Family Liaison Officer, has retired. Pam was (and still is!) hugely involved in the local community. Taking the reins in our Clare Road store will be Jill Rushbrook, formerly from our Danbury branch.

Remembrance Service

Our team’s annual Christmas Remembrance Evening took place at Trinity Methodist Church on 15th December. We’d already gone to print by that point, but if it was anything like previous years’ events it will have been a wonderfully uplifting service.
Community News

Essex Stars
We were proud to sponsor the ‘Star of Essex’ at the recent Pride of Essex awards. The winner was Dennis Rensch who’s raised £millions for charity over his lifetime. Fundraisers include treks across the Sahara, to the North Pole, swimming with sharks and many other adventures, all funded by himself. Runner up was Yvette Billings, both here with our Vice President Judy Saunders and the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. Well done!

Feline Helpful
Thanks to members and shoppers at our Galleywood store who left kitty-friendly donations for the Cat’s Protection League. The group, which have a centre nearby, were looking for gifts and treats for the cats remaining in their shelter over Christmas.

Want to get involved?
Get in touch with us as we’d love to help. Helping our communities is the whole reason we’re here!

Pop Up Exhibition
Our 150th Museum exhibition was so popular this summer that we set up a mini pop-up version in the Meadows Shopping Centre in Chelmsford through the Autumn. Shoppers were delighted with the old photos, and interested in the length of time we’ve been helping local communities.

Christ Church URC in Chelmsford withdrew a cheque for over £150 from their Community Card funds. Can we help your charity or community group with a Community Card?
Community News

Can We Help Your Group?
If you have a Community Card with us already, let us know how we can help you raise more money this year. And if you don’t, get in touch to find out how we can support you. We can supply signs and assistance if you want to promote the initiative which, as you’ll know, allows your supporters to raise you money when they shop — and we add our own donation too! The Friends of Sandon School group recently pushed their cards at their annual quiz night.

Grow Your Group
We made the headlines with our community support and networking event in late November. Representatives from dozens of groups, from schools to councils, churches to singers, visited Chelmsford Quadrant to make new contacts and hear from expert speakers on the topics of Public Speaking, Getting in the Press, and information about the new General Data Protection Regulations. Interested in attending our next one? ‘Like’ our facebook page to hear about future events.

Doorstep Challenge Is Back!
Winter brings with it many joyous occasions, but it is also a tough time for many who may be lonely or experiencing tough financial pressures. If you know of anyone struggling, why not Take The Doorstep Challenge and anonymously drop off a bag of goodies for them? This idea went global a few years ago, and already this winter we’ve seen donations made in countries across the world. Check out /doorstepchallenge on Facebook for stories, or print out some free luggage labels via the Doorstep Challenge page on our website.

Your local Co-operative update...
Youth

Danbury Pre-School have received some additional funds from parents and teachers using their Community Cards, with a cheque for £420 being withdrawn in December. Claudia from our membership team presented the cheque to the children, who told her that they’d like to use it to buy a large rug!

Scargill Infant School returned to our Mungo Park Road store for the second year for an impromptu Christmas Carol service for locals. They raised lots of money for Little Havens and a fun time was had by all!

Danbury Pre-School

Tyrrells Primary School recently withdrew £870 from their Community Card account, which was presented to them in their school assembly. The school used it to buy a new video camera to record their school plays, which came in handy just before Christmas!

Scargill Infant School

Quadran donated a Chelmsford Monopoly game to KEGS Grammar School for their Christmas Fayre.

Organising A Fundraising Event? If you need any additional support to help you raise money, such as a raffle prize, ask your local store manager - they may be able to help there and then. Some of our recent community donations include...

• Orsett Church donation for roof repairs
• Voucher to Ladybird Nursery
• Galleywood Heritage Centre craft market raffle prize
• Canvey Island Rugby Club raffle prize
• Lawford Mead School donation for disco
• Longmeads FC Writtle donation

Facebook: /chelmsfordstarcoop
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 30th April 2018
Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

The co-operative travel

Refer A Friend and receive

1000 points!

Introduce a new client to co-op travel and you’ll BOTH receive 1000 points.

Membership No. 633174

Not in conjunction with any other offer.

Voucher valid until 30th April 2018
Part of Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Limited

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Visiting Mount Etna and the Valley of the Temples

ESCORTED TOUR
10 days from £1,649 - SAVE up to £100pp*
Includes 16 meals & 13 excursions
Departs April - October 2018
*Lead in price applies to 9 October 2018 departure

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Includes 14 meals & 2 excursions
Departs April - October 2018
*Lead in price applies to 2 October 2018 departure

Unwind in Sicily
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To view all of the Titan benefits, please turn to the back page

*Subject to availability. †Excludes Scottish islands and Sark. Home transfers are not included on Titan’s ‘Essential Collection’ holidays.

All Titan tours include Titan’s VIP door-to-door travel service & FREE connecting flights from regional airports*

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 8PS | 01245 474591
156 Gloucester Avenue, Moulsham Lodge, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9LG | 01245 258089
15 Havengore, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6JP | 01245 262923
108 Kings Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2BB | 01245 353630
47 - 49 Main Road, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 7GA | 01245 430931
Trent Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2LQ | 01245 258585
26 Melbourne Parade, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2DW | 01245 347774
17 Bridge Street, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3YF | 01245 421148
78 - 82 Forest Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2TS | 01245 258855
3 - 5 Spreadeagle Place, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9EA | 01277 353124
3 - 5 Masefield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1AN | 01376 321615

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

Funeral Services:
4 George Yard (Unit 9), Braintree Essex CM7 1RB | 01376 528408
78 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1SS | 01245 353978
348 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9RA | 01245 268993

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

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

Petróleo Filling Station • Post Office Facilities

Chelmsford Star - the Co-operative
at the heart of our community

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 missed out on your Community Network Event. Will you be doing another one and how do I sign up for it?

**Answer**
Yes, we’ll do another in the autumn. Email membership@chelmsfordstar.coop to register your interest, alternatively ‘like’ our Facebook page and all events will be listed on there.

**Question**
Q. I have heard there is a cut off point for my points to be included in this year’s share of the profits. Is this true?

**Answer**
Yes. The cut off is the end of January (the end of our financial year). All points acquired after that point will be included in the following years share of the profit (dividend) payout.

**Question**
Q. Sometimes your tills go ‘offline’. What does this mean, and do I miss out on my points?

**Answer**
Tills are ‘off-line’ when there is an interruption in the signal between them and our headoffice. This happens occasionally in areas with limited broadband capacity. Any points earned during this time are stored and updated as soon as the signal is restored, so you don’t lose out.

**Question**
Q. I have seen some new burgundy signage in place where all your funeral branches were. Do they still belong to Chelmsford Star or have they changed hands?

**Answer**
It is still us! We’ve updated the signage, but the colleagues, the great service and the society are still the same. See more on page 9.

**Question**
Q. I have seen photos in STARLIGHT of people receiving small gifts and donations. Would I be able to get any for my school?

**Answer**
Yes! For smaller donations, like raffles, etc, pop into your local Chelmsford Star Co-op and ask the manager – they may need a letter from your school to confirm who you are, but can usually arrange a donation on the spot. All we ask is that there is a photo taken!

**Question**
Q. How much does it cost to become a member?

**Answer**
A one off payment of £1.

**Question**
Q. How many points do I need to get a share of the profits?

**Answer**
You will receive a payout for every 1000 points you have earned before the end of January.

**Question**
Q. How will I find out when the AGM is?

**Answer**
The AGM will be on 14th May, but in the weeks leading up to it there will be information in all our stores and online. If in doubt, call the Membership Team on 0800 2540404.

**Question**
Q. I have seen photos in STARLIGHT of people receiving small gifts and donations. Would I be able to get any for my school?

**Answer**
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**Question**
Q. Why do I have to pay to be a member? I don’t have to pay to get a loyalty card, like Clubcard.

**Answer**
The £1 is your share, and makes you a shareholder in our business. You need this in order to receive a share of our profits. It is not a loyalty card. On the plus side, ‘part-owner of a multi-million pound company’ looks good on the CV! And there are additional benefits too!

**Question**
Q. Sometimes your tills go ‘offline’. What does this mean, and do I miss out on my points?

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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...
Fulfil your travel dreams
Titan feature more than 400 unmissable adventures to almost 100 countries and every continent!

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400 tours worldwide
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and home transfers for customers in Northern UK, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands

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once booked, if we reduce the price of your holiday, we will automatically refund the difference with credit

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for free check-in assistance at Gatwick & Heathrow

For more information please visit your local Co-operative Travel branch

*Excludes Scottish islands and Sark, where vehicle access is restricted. Home transfers are not included on Titan’s ‘Essential Collection’ holidays.