

The Bucks Bulletin



WWW.BUCKSBS.CO.UK | WINTER 2024/25

Online applications and digital transformations... but always retaining that personal touch!

It's been a year of change here at the Society. Major upgrades to our online banking platform and digital security have seen a shift in the way lots of members use our services.

Making these changes has been an important step forward in supporting our long-term growth ambitions and sustainability plans.

A high percentage of new account applications are already being made online and we've received **thousands of requests** this year from existing members who want the convenience of receiving information from us by email, instead of post.

That said, we know online doesn't appeal to everyone, so you'll always have the option to receive documents and communications from us by post, and visit us in person if you prefer.

Speaking of visiting us in person, did you know

that our High Street branch in Chalfont St Giles will have been our home for **100 years in 2025!?**

The High Street has changed significantly since we first opened our doors back in 1925, but our purpose remains the same: **To help people achieve financial security, provide a safe home for savings and enable home ownership.**

Supporting the local community we've been part of for so long continues to be one of our priorities. It's not just about donating money, we also give our time.

Colleagues across all areas of the Society have volunteered on numerous projects this year - taking part in litter picks, getting involved with mentoring and even painting school classrooms.

For these reasons and more, we are proud to have been recognised again as a Heart of Bucks Community Investor.



Supporting...

Our Local Village Activities

We were delighted to once again sponsor the Village Show / Street Party and Christmas Grotto

Supporting...

WizeUp Financial Education

Our annual donation helps provide budgeting and finance lessons in local schools

Supporting...

Chalfont St Giles Cricket Club

We recently announced a multi-year agreement to sponsor the shirts of both senior teams



UK Savings Week Returns

September saw the return of UK Savings Week, giving us a timely reminder of how important it is to try to save a small amount each month. The over-riding message wasn't about **how much** you save, it was about **building a savings habit**.

A regular saver account can be a great place to start. We have a range of regular saver options including an ISA version which allows you to save tax-free. We also have regular savings accounts for children - it's never too early to start a positive habit!

Easy to Open!

Savings comparison site **Moneyfacts**, have recently awarded us their coveted 'easy to open' logo.

In Other News...

Our CEO, Dan Wass, will be running the London Landmarks Half Marathon in April in support of Citizens Advice Bucks. Follow our social media accounts for more info and to see how you can get involved.

'Brilliant Service' from our Mortgage Team

Since relaunching our 'fee free' inhouse mortgage advice service last year, we've taken hundreds of enquiries from new and existing members across the country.

Our knowledgeable team have helped people at different stages of their property ownership journey, from first time buyers and home movers, all the way through to those borrowing into retirement and even investors looking to purchase property to rent out.

Our mortgage range is focused to provide solutions to those not served by typical High Street lenders, so even if you think you might not qualify, it's worth having a chat with one of our friendly team - just like Adam did...

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Brilliant service from initial enquiry phone call to receiving a mortgage offer.

Kay instantly made me feel at ease and made the whole process stress free, Sam also was great in the whole underwriting process.

I would definitely recommend if you are looking for a personal approach to getting a mortgage! 10/10 service

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Launching our new Community Fund

In December we announced the inaugural recipient of our newly established Bucks Community Fund! Designed by colleagues from all areas of the Society, this fund and its criteria embodies the values of the people that we work with every day and addresses community priorities.

For the first Community Fund, the team focused on initiatives prioritising the wellbeing of children and young people. Such organisations might provide safe spaces for young people, educational support, improved access to nutritious meals or even bolstered physical and mental health. Our colleagues were truly impressed by the applications received and note that it was a significant challenge for the team to select which of the remarkable organisations would be awarded the grant. With the invaluable help of Heart of Bucks, we opened the fund up to applications.

After much deliberation, we were thrilled to announce that Brighter Futures Together CIC will receive a grant of £5,000!

This not-for-profit supports young people's mental health and wellbeing through sector consulting, advisory services, and through running its own innovative youth-focused programs. Our colleagues were inspired by the wide range of work being done by this organisation, from engaging with NHS mental health services for children and young people to facilitating their own programs for those affected by mental health challenges and their broader support systems.



Launching the fund has been an incredibly gratifying opportunity to support our local area and we look forward to reopening the fund next year with a fresh set of criteria.

Recognising & Rewarding Small Businesses in Bucks!

We had the honour of supporting the Buckinghamshire Business First Awards 2024, sponsoring the award for 'Excellence in Customer Experience' category.

It was wonderful to be involved and a great opportunity to celebrate the successes of some amazing small businesses throughout Buckinghamshire.

Congratulations to all who were shortlisted and our category winner: **Ashridge Home Care**



We're here for you!



Whether you have an account enquiry, require mortgage advice or need to discuss changes to your personal circumstances - it's easier than ever to contact us...



Visit our branch

High Street, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire HP8 4QB



Give us a call

01494 879500



Send us an email

info@bucksbs.co.uk

Our website is filled with
information and resources
www.bucksbs.co.uk

