



Antrim Credit Union AGM 2019



Financial Year
Sep 2018 - Oct 2019

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Annual General Meeting 2019

Friday 6th December 2019 – 7.30pm in the Antrim Office

Order of Business

1. Ascertainment that a Quorum is present
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
3. Rule Amendments arising from League AGM 2019
4. Report of the Chairman
5. Report of the Treasurer and Consideration of Accounts
6. Report of the Auditor
7. Declaration of Dividend and Rebate of Interest
8. Report of the Supervisory / Internal Audit Committee
9. Report of the Credit Committee
10. Report of the Credit Control Committee
11. Report of the Membership Committee
12. Report of the Insurance Officer
13. Report of the Youth Officer
14. Election of Auditor
15. Election of Directors
16. Election of Supervisors / Internal Auditors
17. Announcement of Election Results
18. Any Other Business
19. Adjournment or Close of Meeting

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at 7.30pm on Friday 07/12/2018 in the Antrim Office

The Meeting started at 7.30PM once a Quorum of Members had been confirmed.

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 01/12/2017 were read by the Manager Mr Keith Savage. Acceptance was proposed by M Kerr and seconded by J Allen.

The Proposed Amendments to the Standard Rules arising from the Irish League of Credit Unions' Annual General Meeting in April 2018 were read out by K Savage, proposed by N Graham and seconded by E Boles.

Mr Joe McLaughlin read his Report as Chairman in which he confirmed our commitment to the local community – proof of which was the investment in the new Randalstown sub-office, looked forward to the celebrations connected with our 50th Anniversary and thanked everyone for their support and hard work. This was proposed by J Drain and seconded by P Green.

The Treasurer's Report was presented to the AGM by Mr Gus Close, proposed by J Allen and seconded by W Kirkpatrick.

The Auditor's Report was made by Mr Paul Nichol and does not require a Proposer or Seconder. Mr Nichol stated his Report would be limited to the Surplus and Deficit Accounts as the full version of the Accounts was 29 pages long. It was necessary to cover the main points for an AGM and this could be achieved through the Surplus / Deficit and by reference to the Balance Sheet and Minors' Accounts. He made mention of the increases in Bank Charges, Insurance Costs and Bad Debt Provision and also that the current level of Reserve met not only the Regulatory requirements but continued to be prudent and healthy.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer; Mr Gus Close, declared a Dividend of 0.25% on Shares and a Loan Interest Rebate of 5% . This was proposed by M McGrath and seconded by E Mailey.

Our Annual Proposal to set a budget for Charitable Donations was made by K Savage and seconded by J Allen.

The Report of the Supervisory Committee / Internal Audit was made by Mr Martin Hackett. As with the Auditor's Report this is independent and made directly to the Membership and does not need a proposer or seconder.

The Credit Committee Report was read by K Savage, proposed by C Holcroft and seconded by R Graham.

Mrs Pat Green presented the Credit Control Committee's Report which was proposed by M Kerr and seconded by J Allen.

Mrs Joy McLornan made the Report on behalf of the Membership Officers and Committee and this was proposed by W Kirkpatrick and seconded by A Close.

Mr Martin Burns made the Report on behalf of the Insurance Officer, which was proposed by J Allen and seconded by J McLornan.

Mr K Savage made a proposal to renew the Death Benefit Insurance Rider on our Life Savings Insurance policy and this was seconded by M Mulholland. A further Proposal to pay the Death Benefit Insurance as an operational expense for all Minor accounts was made by K Savage and seconded once again by M Mulholland.

Mr Martin Hackett Proposed a donation to the work of the ILCU International Development Foundation of £3,000.00 and this was seconded by M Mulholland.

The Youth Officers' Report was read by Mr Ethan Savage, proposed by N Graham and seconded by N Robinson.

The re-election of Nichol Allen as our Auditors was proposed by K Savage and seconded by P Green.

The election of Directors was proposed en-bloc by K Savage and seconded by M McGrath.

The election of Supervisors was proposed en-bloc by K Savage and seconded by M Mulholland.

This concluded the official business of the AGM and we moved on to the distribution of Christmas hampers and the Junior Draw.

The 6 Christmas Hampers for those who made regular use of their accounts throughout the year were won by Members 10835, 3346, 9791, 8575, 1464 and 5702. These Members would be contacted and arrangements made for the collection or delivery of their prizes.

Or the Junior Account Holders the draw prizes of £50, £30 and £20 were made to Account Holders 16388, 101182 and 16753 respectively. The relevant Parents and Guardians would be informed of these prizes.

For the Members attending the AGM Christmas hampers were won by C Holcroft, M Kerr and E O'Dowd.

There being no other business the Chairman adjourned the meeting and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

Mary Robb
Secretary
Antrim Credit Union Limited

Rule Amendments arising from the Irish League of Credit Unions AGM 2019

There were thirteen (13) amendments to the Standard Rules for Credit Unions (Northern Ireland) arising from the League AGM 2019. They are as follows;

Resolution No.1 amends Rule 72

Resolution No.2 amends Rule 73

Resolution No. 3 amends Rule 113

Resolution No. 4 amends Rule 117

Resolution No. 5 amends Rule 118

Resolution No. 6 amends Rule 119

Resolution No. 7 amends Rule 120

Resolution No. 8 amends Rule 121

Resolution No. 9 amends Rule 122

Resolution No. 10 amends Rule 41

Resolution No. 11 amends Rule 48

Resolution No. 12 amends Rule 51

Resolution No. 13 amends Rule 100

The full wording of the Resolutions and Amendments will be read to the Members attending the AGM and are available in writing on request.

Keith Savage

**Manager
Antrim Credit Union Limited**

Antrim Credit Union Limited

AGM 2019

Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Board, Officers, Volunteers and Staff of Antrim Credit Union I would like to welcome you all to this year's Annual General Meeting.

Over the past 12 months we have celebrated our 50th Anniversary and opened our new office at 39 New Street in Randalstown. Taken on their own these two events are measures of our strength, success and commitment to the Credit Union ethos and ideals; building on strong foundations for the future. However, we are also very much aware of the present and have increased our Membership, Share and Loan balances as well as our Reserves through prudent application of our resources. All of these steps combine to allow us to face this period of continuing economic uncertainty with a degree of confidence and while no-one can make accurate predictions, we feel we have the depth and flexibility to adapt as circumstances and service to our Members dictate.

While this Anniversary year has provided many opportunities for reflection it has also provided a focus for our efforts to meet the challenges we will face in the future and we hope to continue to grow and prosper over the next 50 years at least!

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors and all of the Credit Union's Officers, Volunteers and Staff for their hard work, support and commitment over the past year and look forward to many more successful years of service to the Antrim and Randalstown community.

Joe McLaughlin

Chairman

Antrim Credit Union Limited

**Antrim Credit Union Limited
Annual General Meeting 2019**

Report of the Treasurer for the Financial Year 01/10/2018 to 30/09/2019

Credit Unions exist to provide services for their Members and key indicators of our success lie in the growth of the volumes of transactions and the amounts of money we deal with on your behalf. The Financial Year to 30th September saw this trend continue with the following results;

Total Transactions	152,487 – Increased by 9%
Share Withdrawals	8,589 for £5,038,844.00 – Increased by 11.5%
Loans Issued	4,267 for £5,855,542.00 – Increased by 4.5%
Shares Lodged	£6,030,987.00 – An increase of 4%
Loans Repaid	£4,859,253.00 – An increase of 5%
Loan Interest Paid	£1,205,595.00 – An increase of 13%

We record every transaction on a daily basis, balancing the counter activity every day and our overall accounts every month which are reported at the Board Meetings. Our activity in this respect is monitored in turn through Quarterly and Annual Returns to the Bank of England and the Irish League of Credit Unions.

The main Financial Statements giving our position as at 30th September 2019 are included in this booklet and will be presented by our Auditor as part of the business of this AGM.

Once again we have increased the volume and amounts of the electronic transactions we handle with Debit Card Payments up by 30% to a total of £1,757,043.00 and Standing Orders up by 30% as well to £834,593.00 for the year.

We finished the year with Bank Deposits of £9,739,232.00 held with Danske Bank, Nationwide, Ulster Bank, First Trust, Bank of Ireland and Progressive.

Gus Close

Treasurer
Antrim Credit Union Limited

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Financial Statements

As extracted from full financial statements prepared under FRS 102

For the year ended 30th September 2019

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Antrim Credit Union Limited

(Extract from full FRS102 financial statements)

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the full financial statements as prepared under FRS 102:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the assets, liabilities, and financial position of the Credit Union as at 30th September 2019 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", issued by the Financial Reporting Council; and
- have been properly prepared so as to conform with the requirements of the Credit Unions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

D.C.Corr & Company
29b Main Street
Randalstown
BT41 3AB

Signed D C Corr
D C Corr, Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of D.C.Corr & Company (Statutory Auditors)

6th December 2019

Antrim Credit Union Limited**Surplus And Deficit Account (Extract from full FRS102 financial statements)****For the year ended 30 September 2019**

	2019	2018
	£	£
Interest from loans to members	1,195,468	1,097,735
Bank deposit interest	62,526	44,727
Net Interest Income	1,257,994	1,142,462
Other income	234	26,692
Capital grant transferred to income	1,369	1,369
Employment costs	-245,162	-227,129
Depreciation	-21,415	-15,521
Other management expenses: Note 1	-492,792	-431,422
Net losses on loans to members Note 2	-256,009	-165,533
Surplus for the year before taxation	244,219	330,918
Corporation tax	-11,880	-8,498
Surplus for the year after taxation	232,339	322,420
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income (surplus)	232,339	322,420
Statement of retained surplus		
Surplus brought forward	94,984	98,636
Total comprehensive income (surplus) from above	232,339	322,420
Equity dividends paid	-41,152	-37,961
General reserve transfer	-125,094	-225,019
Interest rebate paid	-52,875	-60,092
International fund	-3,000	-3,000
Available for distribution	105,202	94,984
Proposed distributions		
Dividend	0.25% 44,935	0.25% 41,762
Interest rebate	5.00% 60,267	5.00% 53,222
	105,202	94,984

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2019 (Extract from full FRS102 financial statements)

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash & cash equivalents (ex-investments)	3,186,325	4,328,951
Fixed assets	Note 3 1,086,027	749,833
Members loans	10,461,917	9,668,758
Bad debt provision	-763,554	-624,647
Sundry debtors & accrued income	140,499	137,143
Stocks	482	482
Investments	6,722,105	5,410,703
Total Assets	<u>20,833,801</u>	<u>19,671,223</u>
 <u>CREDITORS</u>		
Member shares	-18,360,059	-17,353,637
Accruals	-16,063	-14,830
Corporation tax	-11,880	-8,498
Sundry	-132,483	-114,885
Deferred capital grants	-49,302	-50,671
Total liabilities	<u>-18,569,787</u>	<u>-17,542,521</u>
 Assets less liabilities	<u>2,264,014</u>	<u>2,128,702</u>
 <u>RESERVES</u>		
<u>GENERAL RESERVE</u>		
Brought forward	2,033,718	1,808,699
Addition in the year	125,094	225,019
	<u>2,158,812</u>	<u>2,033,718</u>
 Retained surplus	105,202	94,984
 TOTAL RESERVES	<u>2,264,014</u>	<u>2,128,702</u>

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Notes to the Surplus And Deficit Account (Extract from full FRS102 financial statements)

For the year ended 30 September 2019

<u>NOTE 1 Other Management expenses:</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Accountancy fees	-5,880	-2,658
Affiliation and SPS fees	-8,805	-9,420
AGM expenses	-1,711	-1,686
Audit fees	-6,822	-6,558
Bank charges	-29,865	-37,498
Cash security	-3,562	-3,852
Cash short (over)	-41	68
Chapter expenses	-1,937	-1,175
Convention expenses	-2,436	-4,850
General expenses	-8,398	-14,845
Heat, light & cleaning	-14,408	-12,607
Insurance (Starplan)	-12,111	-11,768
Insurance LPLS	-223,049	-194,861
Internal auditor	-1,750	-3,000
Legal expenses	-50,761	-29,672
Postage & telephone	-14,436	-16,660
Printing, stationery & adverts	-18,146	-21,416
Promotion and training	-16,213	-15,827
Rates	-14,180	-14,221
Repairs & maintenance	-51,878	-26,871
Staff uniforms	-2,659	0
Travel and subsistence	-3,744	-2,045
	<u>-492,792</u>	<u>-431,422</u>
<u>NOTE 2 Net losses on loans to members</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Bad debt provision	-138,907	-133,100
Bad debts written off	-203,175	-123,555
Bad debts recovered	86,073	91,122
	<u>-256,009</u>	<u>-165,533</u>

Antrim Credit Union Limited**Notes to the Balance sheet (Extract from full FRS102 financial statements)****For the year ended 30 September 2019****Note 3 Fixed assets**

	Buildings	Equipment	Computers	Total
Cost b\ fwd	903,703	147,638	182,769	1,234,110
Additions	317,096	5,699	34,814	357,609
Cost at 30.09.19	<u>1,220,799</u>	<u>153,337</u>	<u>217,583</u>	<u>1,591,719</u>
Depreciation b\ fwd	- 169,128 -	- 134,946 -	- 180,203 -	484,277
Charged in year	- 9,900 -	- 3,244 -	- 8,271 -	21,415
Depreciation at 30.09.19	<u>- 179,028 -</u>	<u>- 138,190 -</u>	<u>- 188,474 -</u>	<u>505,692</u>
Net book value				
As at 30.09.19	<u>1,041,771</u>	<u>15,147</u>	<u>29,109</u>	<u>1,086,027</u>
As at 30.09.18	<u>734,575</u>	<u>12,692</u>	<u>2,566</u>	<u>749,833</u>

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Minor's as at 30th September 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Minors' Income & expenditure account		
Interest earned	4,614	3,681
Surplus for the year	<u>4,614</u>	<u>3,681</u>
 Minors' Balance sheet		
ASSETS		
Bank accounts and cash in hand	20,607	29,243
Investment accounts	873,822	839,208
Debtors	4,984	8,018
	<u>899,413</u>	<u>876,469</u>
LIABILITIES		
Sundry creditor	-492	-485
Minor's deposits	-894,307	-872,303
	<u>-894,799</u>	<u>-872,788</u>
	<u>4,614</u>	<u>3,681</u>
RESERVES		
Retained surplus	4,614	3,681
	<u>4,614</u>	<u>3,681</u>

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Annual General Meeting 2019

Declaration of Dividend and Loan Interest Rebate

Based on the Reports from the Treasurer and the Auditor we would like to recommend the following to the Membership on behalf of the Board of Directors;

1. A Dividend of 0.25% on all Members' Shares, based on their shareholding over the period 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019.
2. A Rebate of 5.00% on all Members' Loan Interest based on their Interest Repayments over the period 1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019.

Joe McLaughlin
Chairman
Antrim Credit Union Limited

Gus Close
Treasurer
Antrim Credit Union Limited

Antrim Credit Union Limited
Supervisory Report for 2018/2019

The Supervisors are elected by the members at AGM and their role is akin to that of an internal auditor, in that they ensure the roles of the Board of Directors are carried out professionally and any decisions which they make are compliant with all legal requirements. As we have mentioned previously, banking regulations have changed this last number of years and have become more complex. As a result of this, we have continued to employ the services of an external auditor, Gravitas Compliance, who assist us in our work to insure that all the legal requirements are being met.

Guidance is provided by the Irish League of Credit Unions, the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority to enable us to risk assess all of the Credit Union's activities and to draw up an Annual Work Plan. This plan is adhered to when examining all aspects of business transactions over the course of the year.

As part of the necessary requirements we regularly check members' accounts. Many of you will have received a letter from us asking you to confirm the information we have on your account, for example, your name and address and any loans and balances you have. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have taken the time to reply to us and I would urge anyone who hasn't replied to us to do so, as it ensures that we have up to date information, which is a legal requirement, in order to keep your account safe.

Regular checks are also carried out on bank balances, loan applications, share withdrawals and deposits in order to ensure the Board of Directors and Officers are aware of their responsibilities and are carrying them out for the benefit of the Members.

Finally I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year. A special mention goes to our Office Manager Keith and all staff members who have worked diligently to support the Board and Officers. I would like to thank them all for their endeavours to ensure that you, as members, feel welcome and at ease in what is essentially, your Credit Union.

Martin Burns

Supervisor / Internal Auditor

Antrim Credit Union Limited

Antrim Credit Union Limited
Credit Committee Report for 2018 / 2019

For the year up to 30th September 2019 your Credit Union granted and issued 4,267 loans totalling £5,855,542.26. This took the total of all loans to £10,461,873.12 which is an increase of 8.2% on last year.

We still meet on a Monday afternoon to deal with all the loan applications outside the scope of individual Loan Officers and also review the loans issued over the previous week.

We would like to remind everyone that the success of any loan application is largely down to the strength of your relationship with your credit union and while we will ask for details of income and expenditure from bank statements and wage slips, where appropriate, if everyone remembers that the money for their loans comes from other Members' savings and acts accordingly, then the Credit Union Business Model works very well and we will be here for at least the next 50 years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that while we have the Credit Union ethos of “***Not for Profit, Not for Charity but for Service***” to guide our decisions and the policies we set, as Credit Union Members we also have to “***Save Regularly, Borrow Wisely and Repay Promptly.***”

Mary Robb

Credit Committee
Antrim Credit Union Limited

Antrim Credit Union Limited
Credit Control Committee Report 2018 / 2019

We work with the Credit Committee to help any of our Members that are having difficulty in keeping up with their loan repayments. We can change the terms of an original loan to fit in with changes in anyone's circumstances and if people keep in contact with us we can work with them until a problem is resolved.

If Members don't let us know the reasons behind any non-payment and don't respond to telephone calls or letters then we have to resort to legal action to recover any unpaid loans. The document you sign when taking out a loan is called a Promissory Note because you are promising the other Members of your Credit Union that you will repay the loan. When we are forced to use Solicitors and the Courts the associated costs have a direct, immediate and adverse effect on our operations.

The only funds we have to lend are the savings of our Members and non-payment of any loan affects the amounts we can make available.

Thank you all once again for your continued support in using your credit union properly and we hope we can keep helping you with your savings and loans for as long as you need us.

Pat Green

Credit Control Committee

Antrim Credit Union Limited
Membership & Education Committee Report 2018 / 2019

For the 12 months up to 30th September 2019 we opened 642 new Member accounts and closed 146. This resulted in 9,097 Members at the year-end – holding Shares of £18,362,745.26 and loans of £10,461,873.12. We have increased our Membership by 5.76% over this past year. Our maximum shareholding remains at £10,000.00 for each individual Member.

For our Junior or Minor accounts, we started the year with 1,541, opened 172 new accounts and closed 150 accounts – most of which were transfers to full Membership on their 16th birthday. At 30th September 2019 we held 1,563 Minor accounts with a total balance of £894,306.81. We would like to remind everyone that there is a limit of £3,000.00 on each Minor account and after the age of 7, the Minor has to sign jointly with the Parent or Guardian who opened the account for any withdrawals.

We have to meet the same legal and regulatory requirements as any other financial organisation when opening a new account in terms of Proof of Identity and Verification of Current Address, please ask for a copy of our ***“Ins and Outs”*** leaflet or visit the website at www.antrimcu.com for full details.

To become a Member of any Credit Union you have to hold what is referred to as **“The Common Bond.”** For Antrim Credit Union that means that you have to **“live within 10 miles of Antrim town centre.”** We would like to propose an amendment to this definition allowing us to offer Membership to people who may not live in Antrim or Randalstown but who do work there. The new Common Bond would be **“live OR WORK within 10 miles of Antrim town centre.”** We hope this meets with your approval.

Membership / Education Committee
Antrim Credit Union Limited

Antrim Credit Union Limited
Insurance Officer's Report 2018 / 2019

An important part of your Membership of Antrim Credit Union is the insurance cover you receive. The aim of this insurance is to encourage Members to save and cover any loans they may take out on the strength of their savings. For the 12 months up to 30th September 2019 we processed a total of 48 claims which resulted in payments being made of -

- **£85,500.00 for Death Benefit Insurance**
- **£37,298.94 for Loan Protection**
- **£61,259.76 for Life Savings**

All of these amounts were in addition to the Shares held in each account.

The total amounts paid out came to £184,058.70. The premiums to cover all our eligible Members over the same period totalled £223,049.00. As our Membership and the associated Loan and Share balances increase, this is a continually growing area of expense for your Credit Union.

We also have to insure our buildings, equipment and Officers as well as providing for damage from potential cyber-attacks and the cover for the year cost us £12,110.96.

We want to make sure everyone receives the full benefits of their credit union membership and the insurance cover we provide is key to this. Please bear this in mind when considering a withdrawal from your shares.

If you have completed a Nomination Form for your account with us, this can help with the process of paying out benefits in the event of a claim, as this authorises us to deal directly with named individuals in many cases, without the need to involve a Solicitor or wait for a Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration.

Insurance Officer
Antrim Credit Union

Antrim Credit Union Limited
Youth Officer's Report 2018/2019

It's been a great year for making youth reports at Antrim Credit Union. Everything we tried and tested was a success, and we're looking forward to doing it all again in the coming 12 months to an even greater degree of success!

Since we last reported on the official ACU website, the hit counter monitoring visitor numbers topped out at well over 8000. This was a couple of months ago, and people still flock to the site for information, direct contact with staff and updates on what's going on in the community. We were delighted to unveil a special version of the website for our 50th anniversary, which featured unique logos, graphics and a celebratory atmosphere in keeping with everything going on throughout the organisation. When the 50th anniversary period is over, we look forward to opening up an entirely new version of the entire site, featuring a subsection dedicated entirely to members who use Randalstown over Antrim.

Our social media profiles remain to be a very effective way for us to keep in contact with our members. While the blog is where most of our information is shared, platforms like Facebook make said information directly accessible and easy to find, helping everyone who wants to stay informed to see all the info they need. In keeping with previous years, we'd like to invite members to be even more interactive with our different pages, to help us gauge more of what they want from our content and how they feel about us as an organisation.

As usual, Facebook provided us with our most successful means of interacting with our community. We were very pleased by the level of interest shown by members in the different milestones and events which took place throughout the past 12 months, such as the construction of our new Randalstown office, our 50th anniversary and the #ACUrocks competition. We were overwhelmed by the success of the rocks competition and will most certainly be running one again in the year to come. While comments and interactions were at an all-time high during the #ACUrocks competition, we still want to encourage as much interaction as possible on our other posts; joining in on everything we share means we can see what people like and dislike, then change what we do to make it better for everyone!

In keeping with last year, our Twitter account is relatively inactive aside from being part of a growing network of credit unions, local businesses and entrepreneurs. We're continuing to grow the network and interact when necessary, so do come along and join in the conversation.

Naturally, Geoffrey has continued to win the hearts of staff and members alike, drawing all manner of attention from his new home in the centre of the office. From this new position, Geoffrey has been able to show off some of the reading material provided to us by his new charity venture at Friends of the Zoo. When we discovered that several species of giraffe had become endangered, we reached out for animal charities in the local area in the interest of supporting breeding programs and other initiatives to help endangered animals either locally or around the world. Friends of the Zoo were very eager for our support and contacted us almost straight away, eventually coming to an arrangement with us which now sees that all passbook charges, piggy bank sales and donations placed into their donation boxes go towards aiding the different programs they undertake at Belfast Zoo. You can now find

donation boxes in both offices, along with promotional literature to help keep children and young people updated on what's happening at the zoo, so be sure to have a look next time you come in.

In the coming months, we plan to take Geoffrey's place in the office to the next level, introducing a blog section dedicated to his work among members and staff. We'd love as much feedback and support in relation to this development as possible when it comes into effect, because we want it to be fun for everyone!

As always, we were blown away by some of the art competition entries we received and wish the entrants all the best with their work in the future and at later stages in the competition.

Our junior deposits from Mount St. Michael's Primary School are still a strong part of our youth program, but we would love for more schools to get on board with saving on a regular basis. If you can, we would very much appreciate any efforts parents could make to convince schools to join us in helping young people save money.

Our links to other credit unions in our Chapter continue; we were unable to attend the annual group outing this year due to unavailability, but good relationships with other credit unions in the Chapter remain positive. We look forward to the year ahead and the new ways in which we can get involved with our friends in other offices. Lastly, we would like to congratulate the chapter and its representatives on reaching its 50th anniversary and thank them for inviting us to their celebration.

Ethan Savage

Youth Officer - Antrim Credit Union Limited