

# COMMSAVE



Friendly • Ethical • Professional  
Helping you afford life



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**The easy way to save, the better way to borrow**

✉ [hello@commsave.co.uk](mailto:hello@commsave.co.uk) ☎ 0303 0402 660 🌐 [commsave.co.uk](http://commsave.co.uk)



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## Save the Date



Commsave's next Annual General Meeting will take place at 11am on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

The full details will be distributed in due course, but we are expecting to be able to offer members the opportunity to join both in person and online.

The AGM is a great way of hearing more about Commsave's performance, with the opportunity to ask questions and vote in elections to the board of directors.

All members will receive an official notice of the meeting, by post, with our winter newsletter.

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*Authorised by the Prudential  
Regulation Authority and regulated  
by the Financial Conduct Authority  
and the Prudential Regulation  
Authority (FRN 213407)*

*commsave.co.uk*

## More PrizeSaver Success!

Three more Commsave members have been celebrating winning £5,000 through their PrizeSaver Accounts in recent months!

Gary from Coalville, Stephanie from Coventry, and Richard from Leicester have all won the first prize in the monthly draw, helping to take the total won by Commsave members since the account first started to more than £80,000!

300 Commsave members, including 15 first prize winners, have now won with PrizeSaver.

With the account to continue until at least March 2022, you might be our next winner!

Savings in the account still earn the same dividend as our regular savings accounts, so it's a win win! - open your PrizeSaver Account by logging in to your online account at **commsave.co.uk** and clicking the 'loans and services' heading.

Go to page  
10 to read  
more about  
our recent  
winners!

## Charity Challenge Completed!

We were incredibly proud to see our fantastic triathlon team complete the Dawn to Dusk challenge on 18<sup>th</sup> September!

Alex, Amanda, Katie, and Liellah cycled for 40 miles, canoed for 2 miles, and then completed an 11-mile hike up a mountain, all within 13 hours!

The team raised more than £3,000 for Action Medical Research, which carries out vital research into working to prevent various childhood illnesses. A huge well done to the team - incredible effort guys!



# Top Tips for Christmas!

Christmas can be a very happy time but can also create a lot of stress. The TV will be full of adverts that play on your emotions and encourage you to spend spend spend!

Most of us end up spending more than we planned on presents, food and travel – that can be OK. But get swept along too much and it can lead to a financial hangover that can stay with you well after the festive season.

Here are our top tips to make the best of your celebrations!



## Talk to yourself – yes really!

Know about your attitudes to money and develop an understanding of your feelings, so that you can have internal conversations with yourself and make spending decisions more consciously and wisely.

Take our Money Motivations Test at [CURight.co.uk](https://CURight.co.uk) for help understanding your financial personality.

## Take the pressure off

Chances are, especially in a family situation, no one's going to complain if there's slightly less food in the fridge or they receive one less pressie than last year.



## Plan Early

Be realistic and budget accordingly. When buying presents, work out how much you are going to spend on each person – and stick to it.

## Don't bank on an overdraft

If you do need more money, don't just run up an overdraft without talking to your bank first – it will work out much more expensive using un-planned credit.

## Buy safe

Whatever the deal, whatever the temptation, don't buy from unauthorised traders and don't borrow from unauthorised lenders. The initial savings and convenience may prove to be a false economy.

## Get the best deal on credit

If you are going to use credit budget for all known repayment costs and put the payment dates in your diary. Also, make sure you check the interest rates and repayment terms.

## Start planning for next year

Once it's all over, it's worth looking at what you did well and what you didn't. This can help you plan for next year. By totting up how much you spend, you can put aside a weekly or monthly amount into our Christmas Savings Account to get next years costs wrapped up!

# CURight

For articles and tips to help manage your money, check out CURight – our online portal for all kinds of financial resources.

The site is open to all Commsave members – simply register on the site using the e-mail address on your Commsave account, and you'll have access to dozens of articles, tools, and tips to help you manage your finances. These include our 'money motivations' test, designed to help you understand your relationship with money.

Go to [CURight.co.uk](https://CURight.co.uk) to register and get free access to the full articles, and much more!

Other CURight articles you might find useful:

- Top tips for Christmas
- Choosing credit
- Saving up for that big ticket item

The information in this article is for general guidance only and is not financial or legal advice.

# Commsave Calendar Winners!

The 2022 Commsave calendar is ready to go out and we'll be sending copies to offices in the next few weeks.

We had a great response to our competition, asking members for their money saving tips, and we had a tough job picking the best for the calendar.

As always, we will be running a competition on Facebook in October to give you the chance of getting your hands on one!

The following members' entries were selected and each win a £50 voucher for their top tip:

**Adi Smithers**  
**Daniel Brookes**  
**Jan McNeill**  
**Jenny Wells**  
**Katie Moore**  
**Lesley O'Sullivan**  
**Lucy Jones**  
**Nick Murray**  
**Tony Cross**  
**Rukshana Begum**  
**Sarah Banerjee**  
**Tony Jennings**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I find out my membership number?

Your membership number will be on the welcome letter we sent you, and the membership card you received when you joined.

You can also check your number on the Commsave mobile app. Once you're logged in, press the menu icon in the top left of the screen. Your number will be showing at the top of the menu.

Alternatively, you can send us a secure message through online banking requesting your number, and we'll send you a message with the details.

### Can I withdraw my savings when I have a loan?

One of the benefits of having loans with Commsave is that you continue to save whilst you're repaying the loan. Certain loans require you to keep one-third of your loan balance in your savings at all times.

So, for example, if you have an outstanding loan balance of £3,000 and savings of £1,500, you would be able to withdraw a maximum of £500 from your savings.

You can check whether this applies to your loan by going to the loans page on our website.

### How can I check my balance?

There are several ways you can check your account balances. All your current balances, and details of your transactions, are available to view through your online account and the Commsave mobile app. You can also get an up to date balance by texting the word **'BALANCE'** to **80806**. If you have any questions about your account, you can of course give our friendly team a call on **0303 0402 660**.

Check out our socials:

 @commsavers

 @commsavecu

 @commsave



# Commsave turns 30!

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August, we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Starting life as a small Credit Union for postal workers in Northampton, Commsave has grown to become one of the largest Credit Unions in the UK – now serving more than 31,500 members, who together have saved nearly £100 million.

Over the next few pages we take a look at how our staff and members marked this special occasion.

The anniversary gave us the chance to look back at our development and celebrate how far Commsave has come over the 30 years.

“

Despite the significant changes to the size and scale of Commsave, and my role within it, I am still inspired by the ethical values of the co-operative model, and so proud of our commitment to ensure that serving our members remains at the heart of everything we do. Simply put, when working at Commsave we are “people helping people”, and I look forward to continuing to help more people to access an easy way to save and a better, more affordable way to borrow in the future.

*Amanda Ivey ~ CEO*

”



Here's some of our staff joining in the celebrations!





Members all over the country joined in our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Our workplace representatives helped staff at their workplaces get involved by posing for pictures with our selfie-frames!

Here's a selection of pictures - can you spot anyone you know?



## Competition Winners

To help mark our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary we ran a competition on our Facebook page to give members the chance to win two prizes of £500! We asked our members to tell us about why they love being a member of Commsave!

The prizes were won by:

**Katherine  
McGrory**  
Liverpool

**Michelle  
Brady**  
Sheffield

## Here are some of our favourite entries...

“

I love Commsave because whenever I have needed them they have always been there. Even in my biggest times of need, when the unexpected has happened, Commsave has always got me sorted and back on track and always with such amazing, friendly, and professional service!

”

“

I love Commsave because it helps me save for my kids Christmas presents and other things I need without realising I'm saving! I don't notice the money being taken straight out of my wages, it makes it even better.

”

“

I love Commsave because I have been able to go on holidays and make home improvements for very little interest and if it wasn't for Commsave loans I wouldn't have been able to make those memories and wouldn't have a lovely home!

”

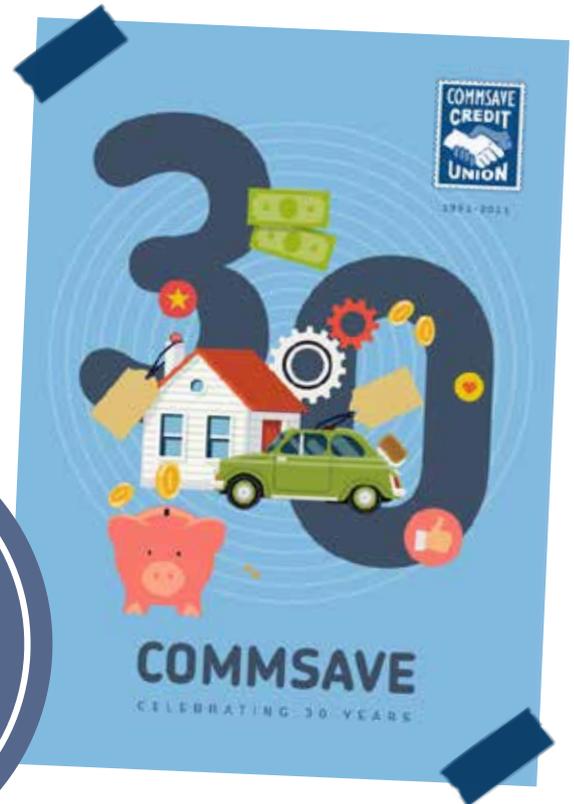
# A Look Back at our History

As part of our anniversary celebrations, we issued a special booklet that tells the history of Commsave's development.

The story shows how Commsave has expanded its membership beyond our original Royal Mail common bond.

We're now also open to people working in the communications industry, employees of the UK government civil service, anyone living or working in the NN postcode area and, most recently, those working within the UK fishing industry.

The booklet is packed with interesting facts and figures showing our growth over the years, as well as a timeline showing the key moments from Commsave's history, and feedback from some of our members.



# Commsave Named as Finalists in Business Awards!

Our 31<sup>st</sup> year has got off to a great start, with Commsave named as finalists in the Northamptonshire Business Awards!

The Awards, which are organised by the local Chamber of Commerce, will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Commsave will be one of three businesses in with a chance of winning the 'Employer of the Year' Award. This recognises organisations that demonstrate

excellence in the promotion and implementation of a learning and development culture.

We're proud to have been recognised in the Awards, and we're already looking forward to the final! Keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on how we get on!



James Richards, our Business Development Manager, receiving our certificate from Julie MacLennan, Deputy CEO at Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce.





## Could you be a Commsave Champion?

### Promoting Commsave

One of the ways that we promote Commsave is our network of Workplace Representatives, who promote the Credit Union in their offices all over the country!

We now have more than 250 reps helping to spread the word about Commsave – putting up our posters in their workplaces; talking to colleagues about how we can help them; and taking part in events to raise awareness of our services.



### Fancy becoming a rep?

We're always on the look out for members who want to join our growing band of reps! If you'd like to help spread the word in your workplace, please get in touch with us.

We provide you with training to help you understand things like the products and services we offer, and send you out a range of materials you can use to promote Commsave to your colleagues.

There's no set time commitment – even if you just have a bit of time each month to put up our posters around your office, that's a great help!

Our reps find volunteering to help their colleagues access the benefits of membership really rewarding, and it can be a great way to show you're prepared to go the extra mile in the workplace.

Drop us an e-mail to [events@commsave.co.uk](mailto:events@commsave.co.uk), or give us a call on 0303 0402 660.

Reps, keep an eye out for your winter survival kits coming soon!

"I've only just become a Workplace Rep in the last three months. No one knew we had access to a Credit Union. When I found out myself, I decided to become a member and thought it would be worth spreading the word so that my colleagues have the opportunity to save or to borrow if they were to become members as well!"

*Liz King ~ Gloucester*

"I became a rep around three years ago now because I found that people just weren't aware of Commsave, I wanted to spread the word around and help encourage people to save rather than putting it in banks that aren't going to do as much for them."

*Mark Greenhill ~ Leicester*

"I love being a rep. I print off the bulletins that Commsave send out every month. I put them in a folder to refer back to when answering people's questions or telling them about Commsave."

*Sean O'Grady ~ Leicester*

# PrizeSaver Winners

The PrizeSaver Account has helped lots of you become better savers whilst being in with the chance of winning big each month!

We spoke with two of our most recent £5,000 winners, Stephanie and Richard. Here's what they had to say about their winnings!

## Stephanie Coventry

"I was so shocked when I found out I'd won! At first I was concerned it was a scam – there's so many about these days – so I called the Commsave office to make sure it was genuine. I must have deafened the girl I spoke to when she confirmed it was real!

Stephanie first joined Commsave in 2013. "My husband Robert worked for Royal Mail and was a member. It's a really good way to save – we don't miss the money we save each month and we know we can get hold of it if we need it."

Stephanie's good fortune also rubbed off on her husband, with Robert winning £20 in the same draw!

"We've been saving for ten years to get our garden landscaped so it was great to be able to add to our pot. We've been able to get the garden done now, so our win came at just the right time!"



## Richard Leicester



Richard from Leicester won the £5,000 first prize in August. He's saved regularly with Commsave since joining in 2012. "I like the ability to save direct from my wages – it takes away the pain of saving and makes it easy. When Commsave first contacted me to say I'd won £5,000 I was a bit wary and rang the office just to make sure it was legit. I was surprised when I found out I'd really won – you never think you're going to win these things.

I'm thinking of using some of the money to get myself a watch – I've got a small collection of them – and I'll probably just keep the rest in my savings so the money's available when I need it.



## The Stats



**£80,700**  
total won



**15**  
1<sup>st</sup> prizes



**285**  
bonus prizes



**300**  
members

**PrizeSaver** Credit Union

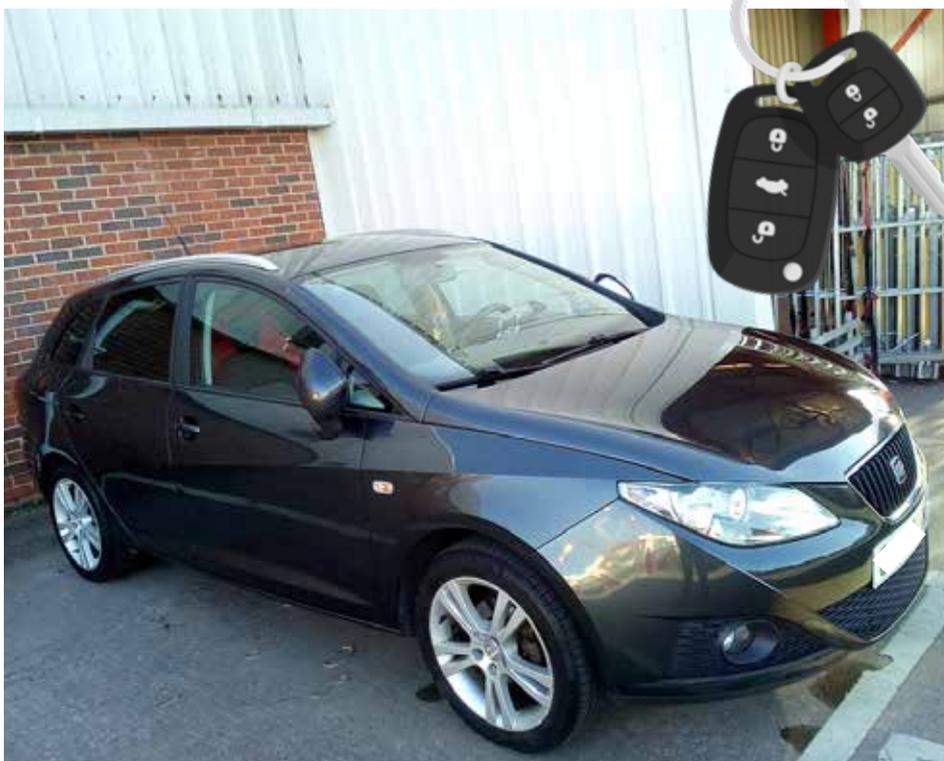
# Doinita's Story

**I became a member of Commsave Credit Union back in 2016 after hearing about the great opportunity to get a low-interest personal loan, as well as save through my weekly payroll – which I found really helpful!**

My first loan with Commsave helped me greatly when moving house, as I put the money towards a down payment on the home and the first month's rent.

After my first experience with Commsave I then decided that I wanted to get my personal loan topped up to help me pay for a deposit on a car. The car has helped me get to and from work over the years and I have now managed to pay the loan off fully this year.

After two years of being with Commsave I then applied for my third loan to help me replace the roof of my home back in Romania that I wish to retire to. Every year I like to make some form of repairs on the home so that it is nice for when I eventually retire, and the loans that I've had from



Commsave have been a great help with this.

Commsave Credit Union have helped me to save much more than I was before and it's great to know that I have some savings set aside that will keep growing until I retire. In fact, it's life-changing! I have two accounts with Commsave, the PrizeSaver and a normal savings account and I am aiming to get over £200 in my PrizeSaver so that I can be fully involved in the prize draw every month.

After five years of being with Commsave I have now been to two AGM meetings, and I am

hoping to participate again in the future, as I really like feeling like a member who plays a part in the company. I find the AGM meetings interesting, and it was a new experience for me.

I really like the transparency of Commsave and I am very grateful for their help, which has enabled me to save, as well as get a loan to help in different areas of my life – plus the dividends they offer are a welcome bonus! I wanted to share my story to help inspire others to join Commsave as it's a great Credit Union!



**“ Commsave Credit Union have helped me save much more than I was before and it's great to know that I have savings set aside that will keep growing until I retire. ”**

# Get Christmas Sorted!



## Apply for a Commsave loan today!

Christmas will be here before you know it – in fact there's now less than three months until the big day!

We all know how the expenses can mount up in the run-up to Christmas – what with presents, food, and drink to think about. Research suggests that the average household spends £740 more in December than other months.

A Commsave loan can help reduce the stress associated with the festive season – helping you to plan well in

advance and give you more opportunity to really enjoy Christmas with your friends and family.

Borrow £1,000 over 52 weeks through our Personal Loan\* and you'll repay just £20.43 a week. That means the loan will cost you just £62.35 over the year!

To apply, visit **commsave.co.uk** and log in to your online account. Alternatively, you can speak to one of our friendly team over the phone – call us on **0303 0402 660**.

\*Representative APR 12.7%. All applications are subject to a credit search and affordability checks. Terms and conditions apply. Members must have at least £200 in their savings to be eligible to apply for a Personal Loan of £1,000.

Apply for  
£1,000 and  
pay back  
£20.43 a  
week!

Rates  
of just  
12.7%  
APR!



Not yet a Commsave member? Scan the QR code to join online!