2026

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Gateway Credit Union

Cwmbran, we’re here for you!

As high street bank branches close, finding friendly face-to-face money guidance is getting harder. We’re stepping up to bring responsible financial support directly to you.

Starting Friday 11th September, we’re launching weekly drop-in sessions at Cwmbran Library. Pop in during your Friday morning errands, no appointment needed!

Session Details

- When: Every Friday, 10:00am - 12:00pm (From 11th Sept)
- Where: Cwmbran Library

How We Can Help

- Savings: Open an account from just £5 and build a secure savings habit.
- Affordable Borrowing: Discover fair, low-cost loans with no hidden fees.
- Account Support: Get hands-on help with queries and account updates.

NB. These sessions offer guidance and account support only, no cash is handled on-site. For cash transactions, our Pontypool office remains open every Friday afternoon. Whether you're a long-standing member or new to credit unions, stop by at Cwmbran Library.

Struggling with bills or debt? You don't have to go it alone.

Get FREE, confidential, and expert financial advice today from services like MoneyHelper and GOV.WALES. Take the first step to take back control of your finances.

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Money Helper

CLICK HERE!

GCU - Pontypool Opening Hours for Member Services over the phone and in person

Mondays | Wednesdays | Fridays | 10am-12pm & 1-3pm

Thinking of Buying a Car Soon? Credit Union Loan vs. PCP Finance Explained

Shopping for a car is exciting, but choosing the right way to finance it can be tricky. The two main options you'll encounter are a Credit Union Loan and PCP (Personal Contract Plan) Finance. While both get you behind the wheel, they work very differently under the hood:

- Credit Union Loan (Buy to Own): You borrow the full cost and own the car from day one. Repayments are spread evenly, you can pay the loan off early with no penalties, and once the final payment is made, the car is 100% yours.

- PCP Finance (Lease with Options): Monthly payments are often lower because you are paying off the car's depreciation, not its total value. However, you don't own the car during the agreement, and you face a large "balloon payment" at the end if you want to keep it—or you must hand the keys back. Early exit fees can also be steep.

Whichever option you choose, remember that car finance is a serious commitment. Missing repayments can lead to arrears and hurt your credit score, making future borrowing harder. If you value total freedom, flexible repayments, and true ownership, a Credit Union loan is often the smartest choice.

More on our website here

About **Gateway Credit Union**

At **GCU**, we are committed to supporting our local communities in **Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent** and **Monmouthshire** in building financial resilience through secure savings and affordable loans. By starting your savings journey with us, you can secure a stable financial future for yourself and loved ones. Our savings options are designed for people of all ages.

YOUR GATEWAY TO BETTER FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

Gateway Credit Union

www.gatewaycu.co.uk

01495 832111