



INSIDE!

LOAN SHARKS

✓ How to beat the sharks

✓ Wales leads the bite back



Welcome

Hi. Welcome to this special edition of Quids in! for readers in Wales.

You may not have seen our money advice magazine before. We've been in print for nine years now, helping readers weather the storms of job losses, rising costs and changes to benefits. We work with support groups on the ground helping people in debt, looking for work or just trying to scrape enough together for a rainy day.

This time, we're working with the Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit to reveal the shocking facts of how loan sharks make victims of our friends, family and neighbours and how we can all work together to put a stop to it. It's time to bite back.

Only licenced lenders can legally help us out with ready cash. The trouble with loan sharks is they start out acting as our friends. It's only later, when they're demanding way more than we ever borrowed, that they really show their teeth.

What they don't realise is that maybe we don't have to pay back a penny. Read on to see why...

Jeff

Jeff Editor
editor@quidzinmagazine.com

Posing as a friend, loan sharks lure us in with cash in a crisis. **It's a trap.**

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

It's time to join the fight back against the predators

YOUR MONEY £ BE INFORMED £ TAKE CONTROL

QUIDS IN! INVESTIGATION



SAMPLE

"You think they're a
friend"

Loan Sharks can appear to be your new best mate, after all they're just helping you out. But it's only as their jaws start to close that you realise you may be in trouble...

Carol first went to a local money lender several years ago. "I was on a low income, and I'd borrowed money for clothes for the kids, food, electricity, gas and water bills," she told us. "I met Christine through friends, who said they knew someone who'd lend me money. She didn't tell me how much interest I'd pay. You think they're a friend, you don't know any different."

DEEPER IN BEBT

Carol borrowed a few hundred pounds, but struggled to pay it back. So Christine pressurised her into borrowing more money – and soon Carol was deep in

by my side and I'd lock the windows and doors when I was in the house. I lost my confidence, I was so scared." Although Sam only borrowed a few hundred pounds, she actually paid back almost £4,000 before Christine was arrested, and finally Sam's repayments stopped.

THE FEAR FACTOR

Carol lived in fear for years – and there were times when it all seemed too much. "Loan sharks are bullies, she threatened me with heavies, she said she'd burn my house down, and she said if I didn't pay she'd come looking for me and kill me. It made me feel really low; I even cut my wrists over it. I thought if I'm dead

Although Sam only borrowed a few hundred pounds, she actually paid back almost £4,000 before Christine was arrested

debt. "I was paying £1,000 a month," she explained. "I didn't have any money left for myself. Then I had to borrow more money off her again. I was paying her with my benefits and disability money. It was sheer hell because I had to make sure I paid her all the time. If I had enough money to buy food I would, if not, I'd go without. It was never ending; no matter how much money I gave Christine the loans were never coming down."

THE NET WIDENS

Carol's daughter Sam also made the mistake of borrowing from Christine. She told us: "I borrowed four or five hundred pounds but I was still paying her two years later, it never seemed to end. If I couldn't pay she threatened to have me beaten up in front of my children. It got to the point where if someone knocked on the door I'd be petrified, I constantly had my phone

she can't have any more money. The people who helped me, the Welsh Illegal Money Lending Unit (WIMLU) have been marvellous, if I didn't have them I'd have killed myself."

WIMLU's officers visited Susan, another of Christine's victims one cold and gloomy January day. Not only did Susan not have her heating on, but she didn't even have the lights on. "I try not to use electricity while the kids are at school", she explained. These are the sort of desperate measures Christine reduced her victims to.

Sam's money worries are far from over, but in future she won't be turning to a loan shark. "I wish I'd never got involved in the beginning but you can't turn the clock back. It's not worth it. Even if they come across as nice, if you miss payments they'll threaten you and your family. But there is help out there."

Quids in! says...

Are you the victim of a loanshark?

Has someone you met lent you money?

Do you not have any official paperwork?

Does the amount you owe them keep going up?

Do you feel even a tiny bit frightened of them?

If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions you may be the victim of a loan shark. Please contact the friendly and confidential Welsh Illegal Money Lending Unit straightaway. You will be helping others. You do not have to repay money lent illegally. They will ensure that help is offered with any legitimate debts. They are there to help.

REPORT A LOAN SHARK!

- Absolutely anyone can phone in with Loan Shark information – a victim, advice worker, concerned relative, police officer, neighbour...
- Any information is treated in the strictest of confidence
- It's anonymous - you don't have to give your name
- Safety of victims is first priority

24 HR HOTLINE ☎ 0300 123 33 11*

imlu@cardiff.gov.uk

*Standard rates apply

www.facebook.com/stoloansharkwales

THE BUZZ

The latest news affecting you and your finances



USEFUL NUMBERS

LOAN SHARKS

The Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit tackles loan sharks. To report a loan shark anonymously you can call them 365 days a year on **0300 123 3311** or send an email to imlu@cardiff.gov.uk

CREDIT UNIONS

Credit unions are not-for-profit organisations that provide bank accounts, loans and savings. They may help people the banks won't. To find your local credit union call **0161 832 3694** or visit www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk

DEBT ADVICE

For free debt advice and help, contact any of the organisations below.

- National Debtline **0808 808 4000** www.nationaldebtline.co.uk
- StepChange Debt Charity **0800 138 1111** www.stepchange.org
- Citizens Advice www.citizensadvice.org.uk

08444 77 20 20

JUST SAY 'NO'

Proceeds of crime put to good use

In Wales, the Illegal Money Lending Unit has seized the ill-gotten profits of loan sharks' crimes and used them to put others out of business.

Two projects will work with young people to produce short films to tackle the scourge from opposite ends of the country. Denbighshire Council will show the film at nine local events while in the South, Menter Caerffili are working on a bilingual short film.

Events are the focus of a neighbourhood watch scheme in Pontypridd and in Cardiff where 15 days

are planned by the city council and a group of landlords, welcoming families through fun days to 'make a splash about sharks'. A 2018 calendar will also be produced.

Loan sharks blighting lives in North West Wales will be targeted using road shows and social media as landlord Cartrefi Conwy takes its 'Take Control' message to over 3,700 tenants.

Schools, parents and libraries in Caerphilly will receive a children's book promoting good money habits produced by The Parent Network. ■ www.facebook.com/stoploansharkswales

QUIDS IN! SAYS:

1 Don't be tempted. A chat about splashing out on a holiday or Christmas lures us in but for treats save first and don't borrow

2 Think ahead. Credit union savers only have to put away a really small amount on a regular basis before they're able to borrow when they really need it

3 Don't bury your head in the sand. If you are in debt, do something about it. Contact a charity like StepChange or National Debtline who will help you find a way out. They will often talk to people you owe money to on your behalf

4 Know where you are. List your income and outgoings to see if things are as bad as they seem. Advice agencies help with budgeting and might point out ways you can save money

5 Never borrow money from someone not registered to lend it. Ask yourself 'What's the worst that could happen?' and think about the feature overleaf. 'A world of pain,' is the answer.



Quids in! Readers club

For the latest on protecting your finances, stretching your money and keeping control of your cash, sign up for our monthly emails at qimag.uk/QIClubReg.

JOAN CLARK THE LOAN SHARK



NUMBER
CRUNCHED
LOAN SHARKS

£700 MILLION

Amount estimated that households pay out to loan sharks each year

£7,000

Repayments one father of six made to a loan shark, on a £20 loan



SIARCOD BENTHYG

- ✓ Sut i guro'r siarcod
- ✓ Cymru'n taro yn ôl



Croeso

Helo! Croeso i'r rhifyn arbennig hwn o Quids in! ar gyfer darllenwyr yng Nghymru.

Efallai nad ydych wedi gweld ein cylchgrawn sy'n rhoi cyngor ariannol o'r blaen. Rydym yma ers naw mlynedd, yn helu darllenwyr sy'n colli eu gwaith neu'n dioddef am fod costau'n codi a budd-daliadau'n newid. Rydym yn gweithio gyda grwpiau cymorth sy'n helpu pobl sydd mewn dyled, yn chwilio am waith neu'n ceisio cadw arian ar gyfer costau annisgwyl.

Y tro hwn, rydym yn cydweithio ag Uned Benthyca Arian Anghyfreithlon Cymru i ddangos sut y mae benthycwyr arian didrwydded yn manteisio ar ein ffrindiau, ein teulu a'n cymdogion a sut y gallwn gydweithio i roi stop ar hynny. Mae'n amser taro yn ôl.

Dim ond benthycwyr a thrwydded sydd i fod i roi benthyg arian i bobl. Y drafferth a siarcod benthyg yw eu bod yn esgus bod yn ffrindiau i ni. Dydyn nhw ddim yn dangos eu dannedd tan yn nes ymlaen, gan fynnu ein bod yn ad-dalu mwys o lawer nag y gwnaethon ni ei fenthyc.

Dydyn nhw ddim yn sylweddoli *efallai* nad oes raid i ni ad-dalu ceiniog. Darllenwch ymlaen i weld pam...

Jeff

Jeff Golygydd
editor@quidsinmagazine.com

Trwy esgus bod yn ffrind,
mae siarcod benthyg yn
ein denu ag arian mewn
argyfwng. Trap yw e.

PEIDIWCH Â CHAEL EICH BACHU

Mae'n bryd brwydro yn ôl yn
erbyn y siarcod

YMCHWILIAD QUIDS IN!



SAMPLE

“Rydych chi'n credu eu bod yn
ffrind”

Gall Siarcod Benthyg esgus bod yn ffrind da i chi gan eich helpu ar adeg anodd. Ond wrth iddyn nhw ddechrau dangos eu dannedd, rydych yn sylweddoli eich bod mewn trafferth...

Aeth Carol at fenthyciwr arian lleol gyntaf rai blynnyddoedd yn ôl. "Ro'n i ar incwm isel ac fe ges i fenthyg arian i dalu am ddillad i'r plant, bwyd, trydan, nwy a dŵr," dywedodd wrthym. "Gwrrdais i â Christine trwy ffrindiau a ddywedodd eu bod yn nabod rhywun fyddai'n rhoi benthyg arian i mi. Ddywedodd hi ddim faint o log fyddwn i'n ei dalu. Rydych chi'n meddwl eu bod yn ffrind."

YNTENNAW AETH CAROL

Cafodd Carol fenthyg rhai cannoedd o bunnoedd, ond cafodd hi drafferth talu yn ôl. Felly rhoddodd Christine bwysau

fy ffôn wrth fy ochr trwy'r amser ac yn cloi'r ffenestri a'r drysau pan oeddwn yn y tŷ. Fe gollais i fy hyder. Roedd arna i gymaint o ofn." Er mai ychydig gannoedd o bunnoedd y cafodd Sam eu benthyg, roedd wedi talu bron £4,000 yn ôl cyn i Christine gael ei harestio ac i'r ad-daliadau ddod i ben.

CODI OFN

Bu Carol yn byw mewn ofn am flynyddoedd – roedd popeth i'w weld yn ormod iddi weithiau. "Bwlis yw siarcod benthyg. Roedd hi'n bygwth y cawn i fy nghuro a'n dweud y byddai'n llosgi'r tŷ. Dywedodd pe na bawn i'n talu y byddai'n fy lladd.

Ro'n i'n teimlo'n isel iawn. Fe wnes i

Er mai ychydig gannoedd o bunnoedd y cafodd Sam eu benthyg, roedd wedi talu bron £4,000 yn ôl cyn i Christine gael ei harestio

arni i gymryd benthyg rhagor – a chyn hir roedd Carol dros ei chlustiau mewn dyled. "Ro'n i'n talu £1,000 y mis," meddai. "Doedd gen i ddim arian ar ôl i fi fy hunan. Yna roedd rhaid i mi fenthyca mwy wrthi. Ro'n i'n defnyddio fy mudd-daliadau a fy arian anabledd i'w thalu. Roedd yn hunllef achos roedd rhaid gofalu mod i'n talu iddi hi trwy'r amser. Os oedd gen i arian, ro'n i'n prynu bwyd. Os nad oedd, ro'n i'n mynd hebddo. Roedd yn ddiddiwedd; faint bynnag o arian ro'n i'n ei roi i Christine, doedd y benthyciad byth yn lleihau."

Y RHWYD YN LLEDU

Gwnaeth Sam, merch Carol, y camgymeriad o gymryd benthyg gan Christine hefyd. Dywedodd: "Cefais i fenthyg £400-£500 ond ro'n i'n dal i dalu yn ôl iddi ddwy flynedd wedyn, roedd yn ddiddiwedd. Os na allwn dalu roedd hi'n bygwth cael rhywun i'nghuro i o flaen y plant. Ro'n i'n byw mewn ofn. Ro'n i'n cadw

hyd yn oed dorri fy ngarddynau. Ro'n i'n meddwl, os bydda i wedi marw, cheith hi ddim rhagor o arian. Cefais i help gan Uned Benthyc Arian Anghyfreithlon Cymru (WIMLU) ac rodden nhw'n wych. Hebddyn nhw, byddwn i wedi fy lladd fy hunan."

Aeth swyddogion WIMLU i weld Susan, un arall gafodd fenthyg arian gan Christine, un diwrnod oer a diflas ym mis Ionawr. Doedd gan Susan ddim gwres ymlaen yn y tŷ, na hyd yn oed olau. "Dwi'n ceisio peidio â defnyddio trydan pan fydd y plant yn yr ysgol," meddai. Dyma'r math o eithafion roedd Christine yn gyrru pobl iddynt.

Dydi pryderon ariannol Sam ddim ar ben, ond fydd hi ddim yn troi at siarc benthyg yn y dyfodol. "Byddai'n well pe na bawn i wedi mynd ati i ddechrau ond allwch chi ddim troi'r cloc yn ôl. Dydi e ddim o'i werth e. Hyd yn oed os ydyn nhw'n ymddangos yn neis, os collwch chi daliadau byddan nhw'n eich bygwth chi a'ch teulu. Ond mae help i'w gael."

Meddai Quids in!...

Ydych chi'n dioddef o achos siarc benthyg?

Oes rhywun wedi rhoi benthyg arian i chi?

Oes gennych chi ddim gwaith papur swyddogol?

Ydi'r swm y maen nhw'n gofyn amdanio yn codi trwy'r amser?

Oes arnoch chi hyd yn oed ychydig bach o'u hofn?

Os oes unrhyw un o'r cwestiynau hyn yn wir amdanoch chi, efallai bod siarc benthyg yn manteisio arnoch. Cysylltwch ag Uned Benthyc Arian Anghyfreithlon Cymru ar unwaith – maen nhw'n gyfeillgar ac yn gyfrinachol. Byddwch yn helpu pobl eraill. Does dim rhaid i chi dalu arian yn ôl os cafodd ei fenthyca'n anghyfreithlon. Byddwn yn sicrhau y cewch gynnig help â dyledion cyfreithlon. Rydyn ni yma i helpu.

RIORTIWCH SIARC BENTHYG!

- Gall unrhyw un ffonio i roi gwybod am Siarc Benthyg – rhywun sy'n dioddef, gweithiwr cyngori, perthynas sy'n poeni, plisman, cymydog...
- Caiff unrhyw wybodaeth ei thrin yn hollol gyfrinachol
- Mae'n ddi-enw – does dim rhaid i chi roi'ch enw
- Diogelwch dioddefwyr yw'r peth pwysicaf

LLINELL FFÔN 24 AWR

0300 123 33 11* *Cyfradd safonol

imlu@cardiff.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/stoploansharkwales



SIARCOD BENTHYG

Mae Uned Benthyca Arian Anghyfreithlon Cymru yn taclo siarcod benthyg. I riportio siarcod benthyg yn ddienw, cewch ffonio 365 diwrnod y flwyddyn ar 0300 123 3311 neu anfon neges ebost i imlu@cardiff.gov.uk

UNDEBAU CREDYD

Mae undebau credyd yn sefydliadau nid-er-elw sy'n trefnu cyfrifon banc, benthyciadau a chynllion. Gallant helpu pobl nad yw banciau'u eu helpu. I ganfod undeb credyd lleol, ffoniwch 0161 832 3694 neu ewch i www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk.

CYNGOR AM DDYLEDION

I gael cyngor a help di-dâl am ddyledion, cysylltwch ag un o'r sefydliadau isod.
 • Y Llinell Ddyled Genedlaethol 0808 808 4000 www.nationaldebtline.co.uk
 • Elusen Ddyledion StepChange 0800 138 1111 www.stepchange.org
 • Cyngor ar Bopeth www.citizensadvice.org.uk 08444772020

MEDDAI QUIDS IN!

1 Peidiwch â chael eich temptio. Mae sgrws am wyliau neu'r Nadolig yn ein denu ond mae'n well cynilo ar gyfer trîts, nid cymryd benthyg

2 Meddyliwch ymlaen. Gydag undebau credyd, os gwnewch chi gynilo ychydig bach yn rheolaidd, fe gewch chi fenthyg arian pan fydd arnoch angen gwirioneddol.

JOAN CLARK Y SIARC BENTHYG



3 Peidiwch â chuddio'ch pen yn y tywod. Os ydych mewn dyled, gwnewch rywbeth amdano. Cysylltwch ag elusen fel StepChange neu'r Llinell Ddyled Genedlaethol a all eich helpu i ddod dros y broblem. Yn aml, fe wnân nhw siarad ar eich rhan â'r bobl y mae arnoch arian iddynt

4 Mae'n bwysig gwybod lle rydych yn sefyll. Gwnewch restr o'ch incwm a'ch gwariant i weld a yw pethau cynddrwg wedi'r cyfan. Gall asiantaethau cyngħori eich helpu i drefnu'ch arian a gallant sôn am

ffyrrdd o arbed arian.

5 Peidiwch â chymryd benthyg gan rywun sydd heb drwydded i fenthyca. Gofynnwch i chi'ch hunan 'Beth yw'r peth gwaetha allai ddigwydd?' a meddyliwch am yr erthygl dros y dudalen. 'Byd o boen' yw'r ateb.



Clwb Darllenwyr Quids in!

I gael y newyddion diweddaraf am warchod eich arian, gwneud iddo fynd yn bellach a chadw rheolaeth drosto, rhwch eich enwi i gael ebost misol yn qimag.uk/QIClubReg.



Swm yr amcangyfrifir bod teuluoedd yn ei dalu i siarcod benthyg bob blwyddyn

£7,000

Ad-daliadau y gwnaeth un tad i chwech i siarc benthyg ar fenthyciad o £20