

## Reaching a little higher

As a mutual organisation, supporting the community in which we operate has always been at the heart of our business. In 2022 we continued our **partnership with charity Education Support.**

Education Support's mission is to improve the mental health and wellbeing of teachers and education staff. They support individuals, and help schools and colleges to improve the mental health and wellbeing of their staff. The charity also carries out research and advocates for changes in Government policy for the benefit of the education workforce. They offer a free and confidential helpline, that everyone working in education can call anytime. Those calling can talk to a qualified counsellor for immediate, emotional support: **08000 562 561**

**We spoke to Gemma Scotcher, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, who said:**

"We provide counselling, financial support, supervision and peer support to education staff, and the stories we've heard over the past year share many common themes. If we had to label it, 2022 would be the "Year of Exhaustion". On countless occasions we've spoken to educators who have been brought to tears by the relentlessness of the past two years. Our 2022 Teacher Wellbeing Index, highlighted persistent high rates of stress, anxiety and depression across the workforce, relative to other professions. But there's still positives in the system, teachers care so much about their pupils, and they're resourceful and creative. We want to be there for teachers and educators to ensure they're well enough to do the job they're passionate about!"

Teachers, you shape the future - let Education Support help to put your mental health first. Visit their website [www.educationsupport.org.uk](http://www.educationsupport.org.uk) for the latest resources. You can also follow them on their social channels (@edsupportuk) and subscribe to their newsletter for the latest wellbeing resources, events and news for teachers and education staff.

**Call: 0800 783 2367 Email: [members@teachersbs.co.uk](mailto:members@teachersbs.co.uk) Visit: [teachersbuildingsociety.co.uk](http://teachersbuildingsociety.co.uk)**

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# TALKING TEACHERS

## TAKING FLIGHT IN 2022



## A year of big changes...

2022 was a great year for your Society. We again delivered the solid financial results needed to remain strong and sound now and into the future. Our results also enable continued investment in you, our members, the experiences we provide for you, and continued support for the wider communities in which we operate.

You can find out more about our strong financial results in the Summary Financial Statement, or in our full Annual Report and Accounts. In this newsletter we'd like to give you a short update on some of the other great things we've delivered for members, colleagues and the education community throughout the year.

### New look website and 'help me' hub

Spring 2022 saw the launch of our new look website. The design was based on feedback from teachers who agreed to join a focus group for us. We hope you find it easy to use - do keep checking back, especially on the 'help me' hub area where we are regularly adding information and guides to help all members manage their finances during the cost of living crisis and to help current and new members navigate the home ownership process.

### National recognition as an outstanding employer

It shouldn't come as a surprise that we value the wellbeing of each and every colleague at the Society - in fact we run a number of committees dedicated to providing support across areas like health, diversity and the environment. We also ensure our dedicated homeworkers feel as included as our office based team. We welcomed many new colleagues in 2022 and continued to champion flexible working. In December 2022 all our colleagues were invited to take part in a 'best company to work for' survey run independently by 'Best Companies' and we're delighted to say we've been awarded 2 stars, marking us out as an 'outstanding' employer.

### Support for homebuyers

At the end of 2021 we launched a Facebook 'Buyers Club' to provide help, support, tips and guidance for those preparing to buy a first home. Over the course of 2022 the club grew and we have now welcomed around 2,500 teachers to the community, providing free guides, information and even a live Q&A with a qualified mortgage adviser to help take the stress out of buying.

### Celebrating savers

Whilst our purpose has always been to help teachers onto the property ladder, it's our savings members who have turned our vision into a tangible achievement, year after year.

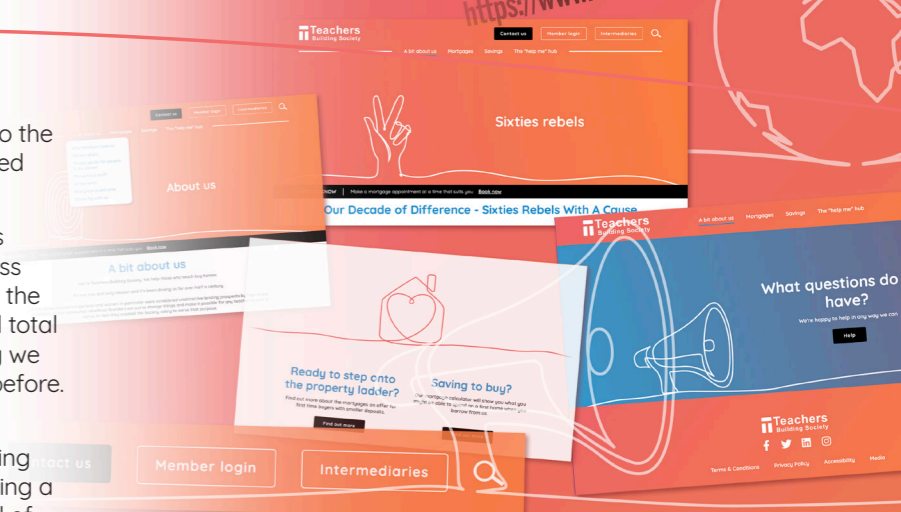
When we opened for business on 1 December 1966, it was savers we welcomed first. In our first full month of business in 1966 we welcomed £164,650 of savings deposits, laying the foundation for mortgage lending. Last year we increased total savings balances by an additional £19.9m - consequently we lent more to teacher first time buyers in 2022 than ever before.

Like all building societies we use the collective value of deposits to fund mortgage lending, but unlike other building societies, saving with us directly supports teachers in buying a first home. We think that's something special, to be proud of, to be celebrated. So a huge thank you to you all.

For several years savers have suffered whilst borrowers benefited from a lower interest rate environment. That changed in 2022 and we were pleased to be able to offer you some very competitive rates during the year, including our ISA range which featured regularly in the national press. On the subject of ISAs, it's not too late to make the most of any unused tax free savings allowances for the 2022/2023 tax year - we'd welcome you topping up existing ISA accounts or opening new ones. We can also help with transferring ISAs with other providers into the Society.

## NEW WEBSITE

<https://www.teachersbuildingsociety.co.uk>



## ...and small wonders

