

19 November 2019

HSBC UK WINDSOR BRANCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVING THE ROYAL BOROUGH

HSBC UK's Windsor branch is celebrating its 100th anniversary since the bank first opened its doors for business opposite Windsor Castle in the Royal Borough.

The branch, which opened on the 17th November 1919 at 25 High Street and where it still stands today, has a fascinating history that includes witnessing some of the most memorable Royal events over the last century, with employees playing a full part in second World War, with members of staff joining the war effort.

The branch, originally opened as part of the Midland Bank, formally opened its doors with branch manager John Marsh Burns, who had previously worked at the bank's Uppingham branch. Mr Burns was supported by just one other colleague, Matthew Davenport. Business grew slowly but steadily, supporting an increasing customer base, and by 1939 the branch employed a total of 13 people.

With the onset of the Second World War halting the branch's growth, the then branch manager Henry Thomas Coe, and his successor in 1941, Francis Eugene Thomas both ensured the residents of Windsor could still access banking services during this extremely difficult time.

Seven men from the branch left to enlist into the Forces, with six men returning safely to rejoin their colleagues when peacetime arrived. Sadly, Raymond Bowyer was reported missing from a bombing flight over Hamburg in July 1943. He was remembered fondly by those at Windsor for his "unassuming manner and thoughtfulness".

With so many men across the bank's network leaving their branches to join the war effort, employing female members of staff across the bank and over the course of the war became commonplace. Six female members of staff joined the Windsor branch, with one lady leaving to enlist in the armed forces in 1943.

Training centres were created across the country to provide crash courses for female staff in the skills that they would need to become cashiers, securities clerks and accountants. By the end of the war, women were almost exclusively manning the cashier's desks and were undertaking work normally assigned to male members of staff, such as securities, foreign work and overseeing the safes and strongrooms.

Tracy Chapman, manager HSBC UK's Windsor branch, who has been at the branch since January 2017 and with the bank for 37 years in total, said: "I am extremely proud to be leading the branch team at such a momentous time.

"Celebrating 100 years of the branch being open in this fantastic town has given us the opportunity to review the momentous occasions that have taken place outside of the branch, including the funeral of King George VI in 1952 - a photo of which hangs in the branch's banking hall - plus the recent wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

"We have also had time to appreciate how our branch has adapted to rapidly changing consumer habits and technology over the years. While today, the majority of our banking is done with a click of a button, where customers can keep a very close eye on their finances wherever they are in the world, they are still able to discuss our mortgage and savings options here in the branch. We are very proud to be part of a branch which has been at the centre of change in banking in the 21st century, but even more proud to continue to be providing a first class service for those in Windsor who use the branch."

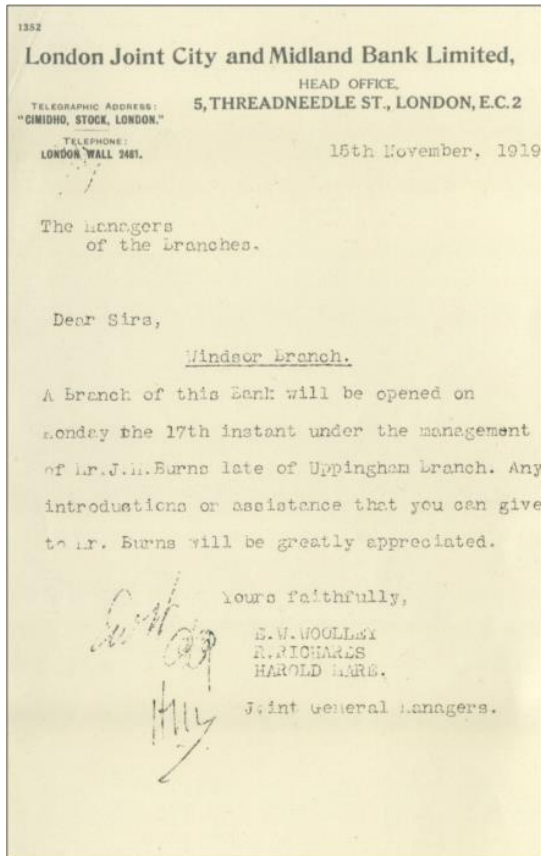


HSBC UK Windsor branch staff celebrate 100 years of the branch being open. (L-R: Sumita Tanda, Caroline Prasad, Christine Dolan, Christalla West, Jackie Finnigan,

Mark Pruce (Area Director), Tracy Chapman (branch manager), Sonia Kumar, Ayesha Saddique;)



Windsor branch 100th birthday cake, made by Anita Bappoo from HSBC UK's nearby Newbury branch.



Head Office Circular dated 15th Nov 1919, announcing that the Windsor branch was to open on 17th Nov 1919.

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