

Giving credit to charity

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I've been having issues with my credit card recently; more often than not, there's no money available on it to make purchases. And that's when my balance has been fully paid off. It's quite frustrating when I attempt to make a payment for a product or service using my credit card and the cashier has to tell me that the payment was denied and I have to try again with a different method of payment. It makes me look like I'm drowning in debt, not aware of my financial circumstances. Which is quite contrary to the reality; my wife and I are very frugal, modestly saving for (small) investments, and the only reason we have a credit card is not to borrow money that we don't currently have but in order to build up good credit history. I've been told by my bank that I have an excellent credit score, so although I don't intend to borrow a loan or mortgage any time soon, it's good to know that my responsible handling of credit has been rewarded with due recognition.

My current credit provider, however, seems unable to match my reputation for financial reliability. Alas, the time has come to find another credit card.

(At this point I must provide a disclaimer that broadly speaking I'm not a big fan of debt or unnecessary loans. In the Abrahamic faiths, money-lending with interest and usury are generally forbidden. If you're not in a healthy financial situation, I'd discourage you from getting a credit card. Indeed if you don't need one, there's no reason to acquire one. Unless, like me, you want to build up good credit history by paying off borrowed credit immediately after using it and never needing to pay interest.)



Charity #267917

Having surveyed some friends and relatives for their recommendations of credit card provider, I used a search engine to investigate ethical banking. I found one tempting option and applied for a credit card, but my application was rejected. Returning to the drawing board, I took a closer look at a credit card which had previously evaded my attention: a Charity Credit Card. The nice thing about this card is that with every purchase (for every full £1 spent) the charity of my choice receives 0.8% cash-back which is topped up to 1% with gift aid. I'm pleased to report that my application for this card has been accepted. Can you guess which charity I plan to support? Just in case you need a hint, the charity number is 267917. In fairness, it's not the most charitable thing that I could do, but it's comforting to know that simply by spending my money I'm simultaneously and effortlessly supporting a charitable organisation.

I haven't yet received my card, but perhaps after a few months of use I'll comment on how reliable the credit service is (fingers crossed I don't encounter the problem which prompted me to shop around in the first place). If you're likely to get a new credit card, and would like to be a little bit more charitable when you're spending your precious pennies, I'd invite you to consider this kind of option.