



## **NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY TEAM HITS THE FUNDRAISING HEIGHTS FOR WALKING WITH THE WOUNDED**

A dozen Newcastle Building Society colleagues have taken their fundraising efforts to new heights to bring in hundreds of pounds for a military charity.

The Society team took part in Walking With The Wounded's Cumbrian Challenge, the charity's annual flagship fundraising event which sees hundreds of people, organisations and companies taking one of three different routes through some of the Lake District's most eye-catching and demanding scenery.

Eight members of the Society team completed a ten kilometre trek to the west of Grasmere and up to the 766m peak of Great Rigg, while four IT department colleagues took on a longer route, walking 26km, climbing more than 1,700m and reaching the peaks of five fells, including Fairfield, Seat Sandal and Grey Crag, in ten and a half hours.

The team's fundraising efforts have so far brought in over £700, with more donations expected to follow.

Walking With The Wounded delivers employment, mental health and care coordination programmes in collaboration with the NHS to get those who served, and their families, whether mentally, socially or physically wounded, back on their feet and making a positive contribution to society once more.

The Society team's participation in the event is part of a long-term partnership with the charity, which is helping Armed Forces veterans and their families build meaningful careers in the financial services sector.

The Society is investing £150,000 in supporting the charity's employment programme and creating veteran employment opportunities within its own organisation.

It is expected that a significant number of veterans will secure sustainable, meaningful employment at the Society over the course of the initial five-year partnership.

Donna Stubbs, community manager at Newcastle Building Society, who took part in the event, says: “Our partnership with Walking With The Wounded provides benefits to everyone involved, with the experience and abilities of the veterans that have joined us very much enriching our working environment.

“The amazing weather during the challenge showed off the breathtaking Lakeland scenery at its very best, while the support and encouragement coming from the event marshals, volunteers and our fellow walkers helped keep us climbing when the going got tough.

“There were some aching bones and sore feet at the end of the day, but we all absolutely loved it and we’re already looking at what our next fundraising challenge might be.”

Tommy Watson, director of operations at Walking With The Wounded, added: “The Cumbrian Challenge is our headline event and each year we welcome hundreds of participants to the picturesque surroundings of Grasmere.

“We wanted to create and grow an event that brought together our supporters, our staff and our beneficiaries, and which epitomises the camaraderie, the struggles and the sense of achievement of what we do.

“We are so grateful to Newcastle Building Society who we not only have a long-term partnership with delivering meaningful careers in the financial services, but were also willing to take part in the challenge, get out of their comfort zone, rub shoulders with our team and raised an incredible amount of money.

The money raised enables us to continue to drive the expansion of our frontline staff, enabling them to support more veterans with employment and mental health programmes, changing lives.”

For further information on Walking With The Wounded, please visit [www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk](http://www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk)

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### **About Newcastle Building Society**

Newcastle Building Society\* is the biggest building society in the North East, with a network of 31 branches and assets of more than £5.3bn. We've been here for our members for over 160 years.

As a leading local employer, we're committed to growing our region's talent and being a great place to work where people can realise their potential. We hold Platinum IIP and won the Excellence and Positive Impact Award at the 2022 CIPD North East of England HR&D Awards. We were named Company of the Year in the Northumberland and Tyneside category of the North East Business Awards 2022.

We help people to own their home, to save and to plan their finances through our range of products and services. We believe in the role of the high street at the heart of our communities and are proactive in making financial information and financial advice accessible across our region.

Our Financial Advice is provided through our Newcastle Financial Advisers Limited division\*\*.

We're dedicated to helping our North East communities make positive changes; since 2016 the financial support through grants and donations from the Newcastle Building Society Community Fund at the Community Foundation to benefit local causes has surpassed £2.3m

\*Newcastle Building Society Principal Office: 1 Cobalt Park Way, Cobalt Business Park, NE28 9EJ. Newcastle Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Newcastle Building Society is entered in the Financial Services Register under number 156058. You can check this on the Financial Services Register or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority on 0800 111 6768. Call 0845 734 4345 or visit us online at <https://www.newcastle.co.uk/>

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